Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

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BOROUGH NEEDS 10,000 HOMES

Report by Richard Guttridge

TEN thousand new affordable homes need to be built in Dudley over the next 13 years to solve the borough's current housing difficulties.

Council bosses said they were struggling to deal with the huge demand for social housing as there are so many people who cannot afford to buy or rent their own home on the private market.

The authority has committed to a £40 million scheme to build 350 homes over the next three years but that will barely create a dent on the waiting list, according to the council's figures.

Experts have calculated that 748 affordable homes would have to be built each year for the next 13 years – which would bring the total to 9,724.

With most housing developments only around 20 per cent of new properties are in the 'affordable' bracket, which does no favours for the council's prospects of shortening the housing queue as those who can't afford to buy their own home are turning to the council instead.

Impact

Young single people are finding it particularly difficult to get on the housing ladder, the report said, with many having to remain at home with their parents.

It said: "The low average earnings in the borough impacts on the range of housing options that are available for people to resolve their own housing needs.

"We are becoming increasingly aware that younger single people, when offered accommodation, are having to consider very carefully if they can afford to take on a tenancy."

The report also said the Government's controversial spare bedroom subsidy, which has been dubbed the 'bedroom tax', has had an impact.

"Some of the social housing properties that we offer young people have two bedrooms. This can put them under financial pressure if they lose their employment and need to claim welfare benefits, as they would be subject to the removal of the under-occupation subsidy.

"There is a large unmet demand for one bedroom social rented housing on our housing waiting list."

Dudley councillor Ken Finch said sky-high deposits for new homes meant many young couples are choosing to seek council housing instead.

He said: "Deposits are coming to £20,000, which is not affordable. The situation is getting worse. These developers building a percentage of affordable homes – it's not enough.

"They have a small percentage of affordable homes and these developers go for the £200,000 ones."

MOVIE MAGIC AS POSTERS BOOST BEACON FUNDS

Nicola Concliffe, aged 20, of the Beacon Centre, with the huge array of movie posters which will be sold in aid of the charity's funds

FROM Harry Potter to James Bond – hundreds of movie posters have been donated to a Black Country charity to help raise vital funds.

The huge collection of up to 300 posters has been given to the Beacon Centre in Sedgley, which plans to sell them to raise cash.

A supporter of the centre, which helps the blind and partially sighted, donated the posters because they wanted to make room to start another collection.

The selection ranges from vintage posters for 1955 musical Oklahoma! right through to more modern films like the Harry Potter series and the latest James Bond movie Spectre. Screen favourites including Saving Private Ryan and Rocky also feature in the collection.

Charity chiefs have now got in touch with Wolverhampton auction house, Cuttlestones Auctioneers and Valuers to put the collection up for sale at auction in early May.

The total value of the collection is still being determined with the posters being reviewed and catalogued.

Communications manager Helen Brown said: "We are very lucky to receive regular donations here at Beacon Centre but this is definitely one of the largest and most unusual donations we have ever had.

"The collection is made up of hundreds of movie posters covering vintage films through to more modern offerings

"We have instructed Cuttlestones to sell the collection on our behalf and should know shortly when they will be available."

Mrs Brown added: "We'd love to hear from anyone else who'd like to make a donation, whether it's unusual or more straight forward, ring 01902 880 111."

ACCIDENT

Injured woman is rescued from path

A WALKER who slipped and suffered a serious leg injury in Stourbridge was rescued from a muddy path in Pedmore by paramedics.

West Midlands Ambulance Service was called to the public footpath, off Pedmore Lane, near to St Peter's Church at around 10.15am on Monday.

Ambulance service spokesman John Hawker said: "In places the mud was around a foot deep. The woman had slipped whilst walking and suffered a suspected fractured ankle." She was taken to hospital.

POLITICS

Defiant Tory MP is backing Brexit

DEFIANT Dudley South Conservative MP Mike Wood has pledged to campaign for 'Brexit' – Britain's exit from the European Union – while all other MPs across Dudley borough are in favour of Britain staying in the EU.

The Tory backbencher has come out in favour of pulling out of the union. Fellow Conservatives Stourbridge MP Margot James and Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, and Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin, have confirmed they will vote to stay in.

LOTTERY

The cheques are in the postcode

TWO neighbours from Kingswinford have each scooped £25,000 in the People's Postcode Lottery.

Thanks to their lucky postcode, DY6 8DN, Andrew Smith and Karen Salmon are now £25,000 better off.

Mr Smith, a shift manager for Cadbury, was at home when People's Postcode Lottery ambassador Judie McCourt stopped by to present him with his cheque. The 46-year-old said this will hopefully fund a family holiday to Florida in 2017.

Mother-of-three Mrs Salmon, 57, also scooped £25,000, and said she has also earmarked the cash for a holiday.

INSIDE

READY FOR HEART RUN

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Children driven to school in stolen car

A CROOK is starting a 15-month jail term after being seen taking his partner's children to school in a £30,000 Mercedes days after it was stolen.

Nicky Rothero ran his partner's six-year-old twins to and from classes in the car, which had been taken after a car key burglary, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The luxury car aroused the suspicion of an off-duty police officer.

The Mercedes A220 had been stolen from the driveway of a house in Lakeside, Stourbridge – along with another car worth £39,000 – a week before Rothero was seen at the wheel, explained Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting.

The car was carrying false registration plates but further inquiries indicated it matched the stolen car

The off-duty police officer saw Rothero – who had 23 previous convictions involving 82 separate offences – driving the Mercedes on three days in succession from September 8.

John Smitheman, defending, urged the judge to give the defendant a suspended sentence as most of his offending had been when he was much younger.

Glazier Rothero, of Windsor Road, Halesowen, whose previous convictions included conspiracy to commit car key burglaries, pleaded guilty to handling stolen property. He was sent to prison by Recorder Barry Berlin, who told him: "You have a formidable record for offences of dishonesty and this is the third time you have been convicted of handling stolen property.

"I am satisfied you had direct contact with those who had committed the burglary just days earlier. It was a car key burglary and that is familiar territory for you. I would be failing in my public duty if I allowed handlers of vehicles taken from domestic residences to simply walk free from court."

Rothero had earlier been banned from driving for having no insurance on the occasions he drove the children to school in the stolen Mercedes.

Firm fined after 40,000 phone calls in 24 hours

A FIRM based in Dudley, which made almost 40,000 nuisance phone calls in 24 hours, has been fined £70,000.

Direct Security Marketing Ltd made 39,214 automated calls in just one day in a bid to sell burglar alarms.

Of these, 9,775 were made between 1am and 6am and many of those dialled were elderly. The calls to people across the West Midlands, made from a withheld number, and were received early on August 24, 2015, inviting residents to buy a security system.

One of those called in the middle of the night was an 84-year-old woman who had been burgled twice in the past 18 months. She tripped in her anxiety to reach the phone and fell and badly twisted her leg.

Following an investigation, the firm based at Queens Cross, High Street, Dudley, was fined £70,000 by the Information Commissioner's Office after being found in breach of the Data Protection Act.

Distressed

Andy Curry, the ICO's group enforcement manager, said: "Elderly people were among those who were left distressed after being woken up in the night by the automated calls. It's natural when the phone rings in the early hours to fear it's bad news and perhaps a relative is seriously ill, and that's what people who received these calls told us they thought.

"Automated calls at any time can leave people feeling unsettled but to receive a call trying to sell you a burglar alarm in the middle of the night must have been very frightening."

The ICO began an investigation into the company after receiving complaints.

Mr Curry said: "Legally, automated marketing calls can only be made if people have consented. This company admitted to us that it did not have consent."

Direct Security Marketing was not notified with the ICO and the firm was prosecuted at Dudley Magistrates Court in November. The firm pleaded guilty to failing to notify with the ICO. Director Antonio Pardo admitted being negligent in the firm committing the offence. The firm was fined £650, ordered to pay £492 costs and £65 victim surcharge. Pardo was fined £534 with£489 costs and £53 surcharge.

Countdown to charity's Heartrun

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho gets ready for the Heartrun, a five mile route from Russells Hall Hospital

HUNDREDS of runners are getting ready to pound the streets of Dudley in an annual five-mile race in aid of a heart charity.

The Heartrun – organised by Action Heart – has been held in Dudley for more than a quarter of a century. The event starts and finishes at Russells Hall Hospital.

Around 500 runners are expected to take part in the event on Sundaym which will raise cash for the heart rehabilitation charity based at the hospital.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho will officially start the event and then complete the five-mile course himself in a bid to raise much-needed funds for the heart charity.

Councillor Waltho said: "It's a really good run to participate for a fantastic charity.

"I've supported Action Heart for a number of years now. My dad died of heart disease, so it is a cause that I can support and relate to."

The event starts at 9.30am on Sunday, both starting and finishing at Russells Hall.

Joy Brown, fundraising executive of Action Heart, said: "It is great to have the backing of the mayor. It promises to be another brilliant day of fundraising.

"We have a team of runners and walkers from Service Birmingham, to raise money in memory of their dear colleague Paul Skidmore. Paul sadly passed away suddenly last year but was a keen member of the Action Heart Running Club."

Light rail on track to open in 2019 as funds sought

A PROPOSAL to bring a light rail link to Dudley remains on track and should be completed by spring 2019, bosses behind the scheme have said.

The link would be created between Dudley Port station and the site of Dudley town's old station at the bottom of Castle Hill.

Dudley Council's regeneration boss Khurshid Ahmed said the plans were 'moving along well'.

Ecological site surveys are expected to be carried out in the summer while the council is currently seeking funding streams. The Black Country Local Enterprise and Dudley College are also involved in developing the rail link.

Moving

Councillor Ahmed said: "Our plans for very light rail are moving along well, and our vision remains very clear to create a globally recognised, pioneering innovation centre to develop the technology for very light rail in the heart of Dudley.

"We are awaiting a number of ecological surveys to be carried out as part of the planning process, which have to be done in the summer. We are working on the detail of the scheme and are also looking at opportunities for external funding over the next few months, to make sure we hit our planned completion in spring 2019."

Warwick Manufacturing Group is working with Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, Dudley Council and Dudley College to develop a Light Rail Innovation Centre in Dudley.

Couple attacked on Valentine's Day

A YOUNG couple from Dudley were attacked by a group of hooded thugs near Merry Hill shopping centre on Valentine's Day.

A 18-year-old man and his 17-year-old girlfriend were set upon as the walked along The Boulevard just before 10pm.

The man was punched in the back of the head, suffering a potential fractured jaw. The girl was also hit, receiving a cut to her chin, in what is believed to have been an unprovoked attack. They said a group of six or seven hooded teenagers set upon them.

West Midlands Police said it has launched an investigation. Anyone with information should contact Force CID at Smethwick on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

350 new homes for industrial site

PLANS to build more than 300 homes at the site of a run-down industrial estate in Cradley Heath have been approved by planning bosses. Factory units off Woods Lane and Macarthur Road will be bulldozed to make way for a housing estate comprising of 351 homes.

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Car park is closing as work starts at college

WORK on a £12 million college development is to start in Dudley as part of the ongoing regeneration of the town.

Visitors to the town who park on Priory Road car park have been urged to find alternative places to park their cars when the site closes on Saturday, February 27.

Dudley Council has sold the car park to Dudley College as part of its new Advance2 teaching block.

The college's new building will provide specialist teaching space for the construction department, which is currently based at Mons Hill.

Exciting

Drivers have been asked to use the Stafford Street and Flood Street car parks.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "This is an exciting new development as part of our overall drive to regenerate Dudley and it will also provide new state-of-the-art education and skills facilities giving young people a the best opportunities when they come to look for jobs."

"Developments like this bring new people and investment to the town which is good news for the businesses in Dudley.

"As for the car parking, there are more than enough long and short stay parking options at in the town centre, as well as free on-street parking, for people coming to Dudley to enjoy the shopping and other tourism pursuits we have to offer."

Five injured in a two-vehicle crash

THREE adults and two children were taken to hospital after a two-car crash in Sedgley.

West Midlands Ambulance Service sent three ambulances and a paramedic support officer to Gospel End Street at 9.40am on February 17.

Two men were in one car, with two women and two children in the other.

An ambulance spokesman explained that one man with a head injury was taken to New Cross Hospital and the other man was unhurt.

A woman was treated for a suspected broken wrist and another woman for cuts to her head, while two young boys were treated for chest pain before all four of them were taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

Parked car was wrecked by blaze

A CAR was destroyed by a fire on a private car park in Dudley.

The fire was so severe firefighters could not identify the make of vehicle when they attended the blaze at Himley Road in the early hours of Sunday.

Giant bird boxes nest at Merry Hill

TV presenter Alex Jones's giant bird box

YOU would normally find bird boxes in the trees but at the Merry Hill shopping centre are 13 human-size versions that have been designed by celebrities.

They have been made as part of the RSPB Big Birdhouse Tour. It aims to increase support for the charity at a time when the habitats of birds in Britain are declining.

Each bird box in the exhibition has been individually designed by a celebrity to tell why birds are important to them. Among those who have taken part are One Show TV presenter Alex Jones. Miss Jones said: "My design was based on the idea of having a birds eye view. It started with the idea of Snowdon and the little train that travels up and down. I was super keen to have a cafe at the top for the little birds. That design then evolved and became a ski scene with the little birds doing all sorts of activities.

"I think educating children from a young age about the importance of feeding the birds and how to recognise different species is very important.

"We always keep a bird book in the kitchen in case we spot something interesting in the garden," she added.

Other celebrities who have designed boxes include Olympic swimmer Rebecca Adlington, architect and TV presenter George Clarke, sprinter Iwan Thomas MBE, Paralympic gold medalist Richard Whitehead MBE, naturalist Steve Backshall, RSPB president Miranda Krestovnikoff, artist Graham Swift, TV presenter Naomi Wilkinson, athlete Will Greenwood and TV presenter Konnie Huq, and others.

It's the last chance to catch the exhibition at Merry Hill on Saturday.

Roll up for arrival of borough's big wheel

THE largest-ever big wheel seen in the Black Country is set to roll into Dudley on March 12.

Business bosses in the town hope the towering 114ft attraction will help to increase footfall and boost trade for the month it is in Stone Street Square, opposite Dudley Museum. The DY Eye ferris wheel will transport visitors into the air and offer panoramic views of Dudley and beyond.

The high-rise spectacular has been organised by the Dudley Business Group, Dudley Market Traders Ltd and Dudley Council.

They are hoping it will add some appeal to the town centre's offering to shoppers and visitors.

Len Lenihan, managing director of Dudley Market Traders Ltd and a member of the Dudley Business Group, said: "We are so excited to be bringing such a high-quality attraction to Dudley town centre to further boost our town's appeal to shoppers, visitors and investors."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley's cabinet member for economic development, said: "I would like to applaud the local business community for supporting and helping to organise something so spectacular for Dudley town centre."

Impressive

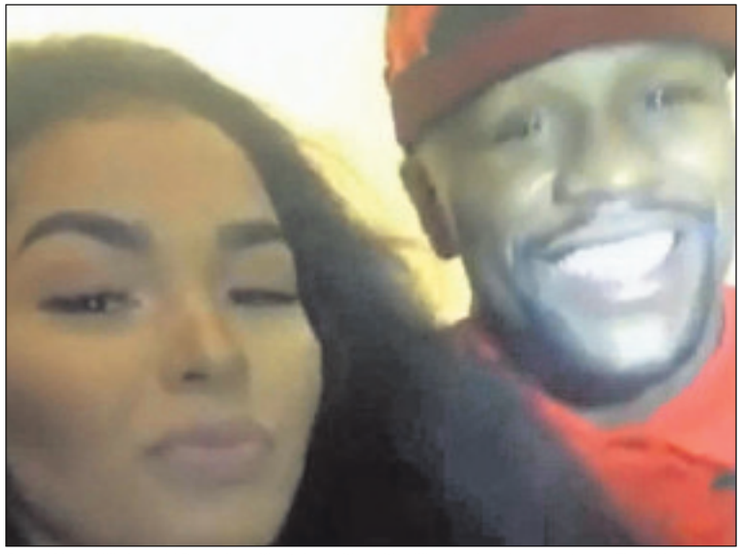
"The wheel is an impressive attraction and I hope that it brings even more visitors and shoppers into the town to enjoy the wheel and that it can be something that everyone in the borough can be proud of."

Following its opening on Sunday, March 12, the wheel will remain in place for nearly a month, throughout the Easter period, until Sunday, April 10. It will be closed on Easter Sunday, March 27.

The wheel can take a maximum of 144 passengers in 24 gondolas and will be lit up at night.

It will take three days to install the new attraction, which will be the highest flying attraction in the borough since Dudley Zoo hosted a fixed tether hot air balloon ride several years ago.

Floyd thinks shop girl is a knockout



One of Merry Hill shop girl Rmarni's selfies taken with multi-millionaire American sportsman Floyd Mayweather

A TEENAGE shop worker from Dudley is being whisked around the world by multi-millionaire former world boxing champion Floyd Mayweather.

Raemarni Ball – who goes by her Instagram name Rmarni – hit it off with the star at his Cannock show last week. The 19-year-old beauty has since been posting photographs of her adventures in the lap of luxury with the world's richest sportsman.

At the former Dudley College student's modest semi-detached home in Kirby Drive, her mother had refused to comment on her daughter's new found fame. Instead she handed over a piece of paper with an email address of a PR company on it.

Colleagues at New Look, where Rmarni works in the Merry Hill shopping centre, also refused to comment on her whereabouts.

But it seems the teenager has been on a whirlwind trip with pictures posted on social media showing her living it up on the 38-year-old American celebrity's private jet and the pair together in the back of a Rolls Royce.

She met Mayweather at Bar Sport where the undefeated 12-world title champion from Grand Rapids, Michigan, was making a public appearance at an event where tickets were changing hands for over £500.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Museum marks Peak of success

A SECOND Peaky Blinders-themed evening will take place at the Black Country Living Museum in September, after its first night sold out in just 21 hours.

Parts of the popular TV gangster saga were filmed at the museum on Tipton Road and now the site will be celebrating the show at a second event planned for Friday September 9. That's the day before the original event, which is fastest selling event in the museum's history. To book call 0121 557 9643. The event is strictly 16-plus.

Homes proposed at therapy centre

PLANS to build 24 homes on the site of a former therapy centre have been put forward to council chiefs.

The Parkes Hall Centre on Parkes Hall Road, Woodsetton, would be demolished to make way for 24 two-storey semi-detached and detached two, three and four-bedroom houses.

Access to the former occupational therapy centre building will remain on Parkes Hall Road. A new access road is to be created within the site.

Notification letters have been sent to 140 properties. One letter of objection has been received.

Woman hurt in lamppost crash

A WOMAN was taken to hospital after her car hit a lamppost in Netherton. Emergency services were called to Marriott Road just before 9am on Thursday. The woman suffered minor injuries and was taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

Damage was caused to the front of the white Nissan Qashqai. Fire service spokesman Matthew Smith said: "The woman received a precautionary check-up from paramedics and the fire service made the vehicle safe."

Wrestling stars in a US-style showdown

THE stars of the Alternative Wrestling World bring their American-style event Rebellion to Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Saturday.

AWW Academy Champion Daniel Valentine will put his title on the line against Dante. Two American stars will be in action – Leva Bates takes on Stoke's Violet Vendetta and TNA Impact star Andrew Everett faces Birmingham's Declan Daze. Tickets are available at the AWW website and on the door for £8. Doors open 6pm.

Hospital cover staff

RUSSELLS Hall Hospital has chosen a new source for cover staff when in need of extra nurses. RMR Recruitment will provide support to the Dudley hospital when it is in need of more staff at times of high demand. The health recruitment specialists already provides doctor cover for the hospital.

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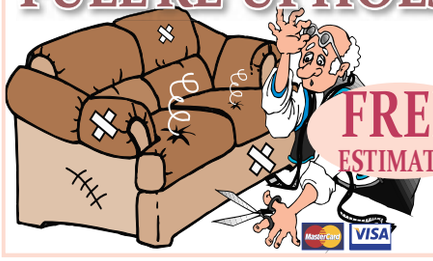

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE One Show (BBC1) did its best to celebrate BBC3 being taken off air and consigned to the internet, presenting it positively as some dazzling new launch. It didn't wash. BBC3 is being launched in much the way that HMS Ark Royal was launched into a dynamic and vibrant new role in recycling. Or as we usually call it, the breaker's yard.

NOW, here's a moral dilemma. I wrote recently about AAA (abdominal aortic aneurysm) screening, designed to detect dangerous swelling of the major blood vessel. A reader says he refused to be screened, partly because if a large aneurysm is detected, the patient is asked to surrender his driving licence until the condition is corrected. What if his undetected aneurysm suddenly burst while he was driving and he wiped out a young family? If we opt to decline such screening, how much responsibility should we take for that decision? For example, should the NHS inform the DVLA or the insurance industry of a refusal? In short, where do individual rights end and social responsibility begin? Over to you.

FASCINATING research this week suggests that fat people see the world differently from skinnies. Because fat people tend to overestimate the size of mountains or the length of walks, they find exercise more daunting. The strange thing is that, although they think hills are enormous, they think pork pies are tiny.

"HOW VIP do I gotta get?" demanded Sir Paul McCartney when he was not recognised and was refused admission to a rapper party in Hollywood. Not exactly the Queen's English, is it? But what was the alternative? "Don't you know who I was?"

A FRIEND was holding his boat at the quayside when a sudden gust caught the sails and snatched the rope from his hand. He says the most depressing part, as he waited for the rescue vessel to tow his boat back across the lake, was to reflect on all the hours he had put in to honing his sailing skills to a fine pitch, only to see his little Mary Celeste sailing perfectly beautifully without him.

NO surprises in the news from New York where researchers claim that e-cigarettes may not be safe for pregnant women. If nothing else this might deter those vapers who think it's all right to light up in your home, producing vast quantities of sweet-smelling stuff that looks like smoke even if there is nothing burning. Have you noticed how the only people who think vaping isn't smoking are smokers?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Fall in numbers claiming jobless benefit

DUDLEY saw a big fall in the number claiming Jobseeker's Allowance last month as unemployment in the West Midlands fell again.

The number out of work in the region fell by 12,000 to 145,000 in the period October to December and nationally it fell by 60,000 to 1.69 million, according to the latest data from the Office for National Statistics.

Nationally, a record number of people – 31.4 million – are in work with unemployment at its lowest rate for a decade, new figures have shown.

The number of people on the claimant count, including Jobseeker's Allowance, fell by 14,800 last month to 760,200, the lowest since the summer of 1975.

In the region, Jobseeker's Allowance claimants fell by 6,389 to 67,506, that's 1.9 per cent of the working population, from December to January. Dudley saw a fall of 846 to 4,379, down to 2.3 per cent.

Deputy leader Councillor Judy Foster said: "If this is genuinely a case of people securing employment then that's good news. But I want to take a closer look at the figures to find out what kind of employment.

"As a council we've supported Dudley's businesses through the likes of Small Business Saturday. We would hope that all the work we've done in the past four years has helped stimulate employment opportunities."

South Staffordshire bucked the trend with nine more claimants at 676, one per cent of the working population. In Wyre Forest, including Kidderminster, the number claiming was down 74 at 646, which is 1.1 per cent.

Hockey chief hopeful after pitch crisis talks

By David Callaghan

TWO hockey clubs looking for a new home after being forced out of The Dell Stadium because of a new football pitch are in talks over options for their future.

Both Dudley Ladies Hockey Club and Kingswinford Hockey Club were looking at the possiblity of closure after Dudley Council unveiled plans for a new £500,000 floodlit football pitch at the stadium in Bryce Road, Pensnett.

But at a meeting last week between the hockey clubs and the England Hockey Association (EHA), they were given better options than they originally anticipated.

Options are Leasowes and Windsor High Schools in Halesowen, Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy, Aldersley High School and Burt Williams Leisure Centre both in Wolverhampton, Ellowes Hall in Dudley and Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath.

Positive

Dudley Ladies Hockey Club chairman Sharon Mason said: "When it was first announced, our future was looking bleak to say the least. But after this meeting, we as a club are beginning to feel a lot more positive for our future.

"The EHA are working very hard to find us the most suitable new base, and I have to say the meeting went a lot better than expected.

"Originally when we formed, we were based at Ormiston, but were forced to move to Leasowes as we were outside the Dudley borough. Ideally, we don't want to be moving outside the borough again, but we have more options available to us than originally thought.

"Worst case scenario, the clubs would be forced to fold, which none of us want. But this is something that is not even being considered at this stage, it is still very early days."

Dudley Ladies has been going 35 years and had a successful hockey recruitment drive in September.

Tickets available at the door... man

Bouncing back are Dudley Little Theatre actors, from left, David Hutchins, Karen Whittingham and John Lucock

DUDLEY Little Theatre's next production is a wry look at the world of night clubs in a double bill of plays, Bouncers and Shakers.

Bouncers, by Yorkshire playwright John Godber, takes a look from the viewpoint of doormen, whilst Shakers, co-written with Jane Thornton, takes the perspective of girls on a night out. Both are hard-hitting comedies.

Netherton-based Dudley Little Theatre will be performing the double bill from March 9 to 12 at former cinema Netherton Arts Centre.

Tickets cost £8 (£7 concessions) and available on the door (cash only) from 7pm, or call Chris Ridgeway on (01384) 872583.

For further details see www.dudleylittletheatre.org website.

£2m bill to set up new combined authority

COUNCILS across the Black Country have stumped up around £2 million towards setting up the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

Members of the new WMCA could contribute even more money next year to pay for 'consultants and experts' as the authority gets up and running.

Seven councils have signed up for the WMCA, including all those in the Black Country.

The Government says the combined authority will bring up to £8 billion investment to the region, as well as giving the area more control over housing and transport under tan elected mayor.

But it has emerged that each metropolitan district council involved in the scheme has paid out around £500,000 to cover 'initial costs' over its first year, exceeding the original £300,000 contribution agreed by each council last year.

Bill Etheridge, a UKIP Euro MP and Sedgley councillor, said: "This process is already getting out of control with spiralling costs."

Fellow UKIP Dudley councillor Paul Brothwood added that it was a 'waste of taxpayers' money'.

But WMCA shadow board member Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council, said: "The money is being used to pay for the initial costs of consultants and experts as we move towards setting up the combined authority. The benefits will come back to us 10-fold"

Masked raiders strike at station

MASKED raiders fled with empty cash boxes after pushing a van driver to the ground in a botched robbery at Tipton Railway Station.

Security staff are believed to have been emptying a ticket machine when they were targeted by two men just before 6am on Friday. They were wearing high visibility yellow vests and dark clothing. A third man drove the pair away in a silver Ford Focus towards Alexandra Road.

Detective Sergeant Graham Moss said: "Thankfully the cash van driver was not badly hurt and there was no money in the boxes, so the robbers left empty-handed. Raids on cash vans are not victimless crimes, they have a huge impact on the drivers who are simply doing their jobs and have families who care and worry about them."

Famous riding school puts on shows at arena

THE world's oldest and most famous equestrian academy is staging shows in Birmingham in its 450th anniversary year. The Spanish Riding School in Vienna returns with its white Lipizzaners. Performances are November 18-20 at the Barclaycard Arena.

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Good causes are helped to bag share of £11.5m

SHOPPERS can help community groups and good causes across the Black Country and Staffordshire bag a share of a £11.5 million fund from the sale of carrier bags.

Tesco has teamed up with Groundwork to launch its Bags of Help campaign, which sees grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – handed out to environmental and community projects.

This includes 12 schemes across the Black Country and Staffordshire, which will be handed awards totalling £120,000 – £30,000 for each of the four areas.

Shoppers are being invited to head along to their nearest branch and vote for who should take away one of the cash awards.

Voting will start at supermarkets this Saturday and run until Saturday, March 5.

Express & Star readers will have an additional say in how the money is spent in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Cannock.

Next week, the causes shortlisted in each area will be profiled in the Express & Star.

The first voting coupon to be cut out and taken to one of 10 participating Tesco stores will be printed this Saturday. Further coupons will be printed every day until March 5.

The Dudley stores taking part are the Tesco Extra, Dudley and Tesco, Kingswinford.

Shoppers can also vote at Tesco Extra, Cradley Heath and Tesco Extra, Sandwell.

Teens arrested after stabbing

TWO teenagers have been arrested after a stabbing in Brierley Hill.

Police were called to reports of a stabbing in High Street at just after 2.30pm on Friday.

A 20-year-old man suffered leg injuries and was taken to hospital.

West Midlands Police spokesman Craig Hughes said the man's condition was not thought to be life threatening. Two 18 year-old men, both from the local area, have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Pictures posted on social media showed a cordon erected on High Street and uniformed officers patrolling the scene.

Anyone with information is urged to call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Comedy play next for Oldbury Rep

OLDBURY Repertory Players' next production is the comedy Passing Strangers, by Eric Chappell, at Oldbury Rep in Spring Walk, Langley, from March 5 to 12. Tickets are available on 0121 552 2761.

Guilty plea over road death of father

Victim David Hinton, father-of-eight

A POSTMAN from Dudley has admitted causing the death of a father-of-eight by careless driving last summer.

Sajid Hussain, aged 36, from Blackacre Road, was at the wheel of a red Volkswagen Polo that struck David Hinton who had been helping his young children get into his green Peugeot 206 on a Dudley street.

The 47-year-old was tended to by passers-by until paramedics reached the scene in Oakham Road, Dudley, near to its junction with Tansley Hill Road on June 20 last year.

Mr Hinton died in hospital the following day. His children and 34-year-old wife were treated for minor injuries and shock.

Hussain pleaded guilty when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week and he was remanded on conditional bail until March 11.

Report

At that hearing it is anticipated that he will be sentenced after details of the case have been outlined.

Judge John Wait told Hussain last week: "This is a tragic case and I will adjourn the hearing so that you can have the benefit of a pre-sentence report.

"This does not offer any indication as to what the ultimate sentence will be. It may well involve custody."

Pc Stuart Allen, from West Midlands Police, said after the incident: "Mr Hinton's family have been left devastated by their loss."

Meanwhile, Dudley Council launched an investigation after the accident on whether road safety measures should be brought in for that stretch of highway.

Waste recycling plant is a 'great opportunity'

A WASTE treatment plant which would process and recycle 300,000 tons of rubbish every year could be built on a 10-acre site in Kingswinford.

The site, off Oak Lane, would recycle brick, concrete, tiles, road and demolition waste to be reused and resold back to the construction industry.

The proposal, has been put forward by utility contractor S & R Construction Ltd, based on Leys Road in Brierley Hill.

Director of S & R Construction, Steve Sankey, said: "I feel it is a great opportunity to develop on this land and will be a good saving for everyone.

"Without a recycling site, 100 per cent of material dug out would be going straight to landfill, but with this application we are looking to see only a fraction of that go there and therefore have important savings on virgin material.

"We are trying to create a safer, more productive environment, with up to 300,000 tons a huge amount to be recycling a year.

"We are struggling for landfill and need to look at innovative ways of saving.

Jobs

"We are British Standard Approved and have an excellent track record for delivering projects to a professional standard within timescale and budget. Another plus is we are creating 10 jobs."

The firm has worked in partnership with Morgan Sindall & Enterprise, Ameys and Balfour Beatty and currently has contracts with Birmingham City Council, National Grid, Severn Trent and Western Power and Carillion.

It specialises in recycling and reselling of aggregate materials, with the company diverting an estimated 200,000 tons of waste away from landfill each year.

The application would see waste processed through a crusher, then separate the different sizes and types of materials through a screener. The recycled materials would then be resold as construction materials and transported off site.

The 10 jobs which would be created have been welcomed by ward Councillor Dave Tyler. He said: "The proposals will seem to fit in well with the existing recycling sites in the area. "I welcome anything that brings jobs to the area. I understand there might be a little unease from residents initially if plans are approved, but I think it will a productive development."

Tribute after baby Ella born in a lift

Special delivery after lift got stuck, from left, emergency care assistant Nigel Goodman, paramedic Nikki Wildman, baby Ella Nicola, her mother Melissa Cavanagh and father Paul Yeomans

A PARAMEDIC who helped deliver a baby in a Rowley Regis block of flats' lift is among dozens of ambulance workers in the West Midlands to receive official compliments from patients.

Melissa Cavanagh named her daughter Ella, as a reminder of the infant's unusual delivery – in an elevator – in July 2013.

The 23-year-old mother called paramedics to her home on the ninth floor of a block of flats after her contractions started.They ruled out using the many flights of stairs to get her to delivery room.

Instead, Ms Cavanagh, her boyfriend Paul Yeomans, 25, and the medics got into the lift, but it broke down. After 20 minutes in the hot and cramped conditions, Ms Cavanagh's contractions became more frequent – the baby was on its way.

Paramedic Nikki Wildman said: "During the delivery we could hear the fire service desperately trying to get to us. After about 45 minutes, the firefighters managed to prise open the doors and we were able to take Melissa, Paul and their baby girl to hospital."

Baby Ella was born weighing 6lb 1oz. Ms Cavanagh, said: "The ambulance staff were really great – they helped me through it."

The grateful parents gave their daughter Nicola as her middle name in tribute to their helper.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zoo and theatre unite for panto

DUDLEY Zoo has been announced as local sponsor of this year's pantomime at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Next festive season's production will be Aladdin, which will star singer Joe McElderry in the title role. The X Factor winner will be joined by TV presenter, former Strictly and Emmerdale star Lisa Riley as the Slave of the Ring in the show at the Lichfield Street theatre from December 10 to January 22. Also joining the panto line up is Black Country comedy character Doreen, as the laziest Empress that China has ever seen.

WI calendar star is special guest

THE original Calendar Girl Tricia Stewart will be guest speaker at a fundraising dinner for Mary Stevens Hospice in April.

An Evening With Tricia Stewart will take place on Thursday, April 7, at the Granary Restaurant and Hotel at Shenstone, near Kidderminster.

She was the driving force behind the famous naughty-but-nice nude WI Calendar and was portrayed by Dame Helen Mirren in the film Calendar Girls. Tickets are £30, which includes a three-course meal. Call Sue on 01562 883834 or 07536 111637.

Centuries of glass on sale at auction

ITEMS of Stourbridge glass from different centuries are being auctioned in the town next month.

Fieldings Auctioneers have a Centuries of Glass sale at its showroom in Mill Race Lane on March 5 at 10am.

Admission to the auction will be free with catalogues costing £12. There will be viewing on the day from 8am.

There will also be a sale on April 2 featuring fine art, antiques and collectables.

Museum panel is now seeking new recruits

THE Black Country Living Museum is on the lookout for people to help make the attraction more accessible to disabled people and more appealing to ethnic minorities.

Bosses are looking for candidates on the museum's Disability Advisory Panel and Cultural Diversity Panel.

An open day will be held at the museum on Saturday, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm to find out more. Further information is available on 0121 521 5697.

Choir helping rangers

A CHOIR is performing a fundraising concert for Netherton Ranger Guides. The Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir will sing at the Salvation Army Citadel, on Meredith Street, on March 5. The concert will have an American theme to fit with the rangers' trip to the US later this year.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

It sounded bearable with letter D left out

ANYBODY who has worked in the high-pressure, fast-paced world of breaking news will sympathise with the reporter for NBC News, who posted on the organisation's website: "Isis fighters are shaving bears and hiding in civilian homes to avoid airstrikes".

A couple of moments later there followed a correction: "It was beards, not bears." I think I preferred the first version.

❒ ❒ ❒

FIRST it was vinyl, now cassette tapes are said to be the next big comeback.

Across the pond, sales of music tapes are now rising so unexpectedly that the Recording Industry Association of America is now looking at ways to tracks sales once more, and no doubt in a year or two we will all be crouched once more over a ghetto blaster with fingers poised delicately over the pause button to cut out the voiceovers. Or borrowing records from the library to copy onto cassette. For personal use only, of course.

Now as you can see from the picture at the top of the page, I've always been something of a hipster, so it is great to be leading the way once more. And looking ahead, I think this year's break-out artists will probably be James Galway, Mike Oldfield and Demis Roussos. And maybe Roger Whittaker. Durham Town, what's not to like?

Then again, I've got a quadrophonic 8-track in the car. Trust me, it's the future.

❒ ❒ ❒

SO Matt LeBlanc breaks down in a Reliant in Cannock, while it sounds like the wheels are already coming off the BBC's new Top Gear before the first broadcast.

The problem is, it looks like the producers have approached the programme with the express intention of trying to maximise viewing figures by appealing to as many different groups as possible while at the same time trying to avoid offending anyone.

Chris Evans, a sort of politically correct Clarkson who hosts a nice middle-of-the-road radio show. But he's unknown in America, so better throw a well-known Yank in. A German female racing driver in a Venus T-shirt, that'll kill two birds with one stone. A black, bad-boy rapper, he'll appeal to another section. A racing driver? Need to keep the motorsport buffs happy.

Stone me, there's more stereotypes there than a Village People tribute act. And there's seven of them.

Well here's an idea. Why not cut the number of presenters down to just three? Three people who are not necessarily well known, but have credibility because they are seasoned motoring journalists. I know it sounds a bit risky in today's celebrity-obsessed culture where even the BBC spends its time desperately chasing the ratings.

But they did try it before. And it didn't work out to badly then, did it?

Dave Heeley with his first pair of glasses

With Harry Corbett and Sooty in Blackpool

Straight out of school and into work at SCM

Bringing his daughter Grace into the office

Blind Dave shines new light on his life

An amazing and inspirational story – Dave Heeley has published his autobiography. **ANDREW TURTON** reports

"BLINDNESS was a gift – it has given me a great life."

It's a remarkable story for a man to use losing his sight as the inspiration to take on challenges, raising £3 million for charity.

But for Dave Heeley, known affectionately as Blind Dave, it's only ever been about seizing the next opportunity to help others. Now that story has been told as the charity champion releases his autobiography From Light to Dark.

"I wanted to write it simply for my kids – I wanted them to know everything," he said. "People come to me and say 'hey you're our local celebrity'. And I go 'nah I'm not'. Who I am is who I am. I'm Blind Dave, the old codger from West Brom. And I do what I do because I enjoy doing it and enjoy supporting people."

Machines

Dave was the first blind man to run seven marathons, on seven continents, in seven days back in 2008. From nowhere he was appearing on television, his story filling column inches in newspapers.

Life changed overnight but despite his new found fame, his feet were kept firmly on the ground.

The 58-year-old father-of-three still lives close to where he grew up in Elizabeth Road, West Bromwich. His mother Annie manned machines at Conex before later working at a care home. His father George was a maintenance fitter at firms including Wellington Tube, Great Bridge.

Dave attended Greets Green Primary School and later George Salter School. He developed skills in woodwork which he still uses today to create furniture in his own workshop.

Dave with wife Deb and his guide dog Seamus

Dave during the Marathon des Sables

By the sea with Georgie-Lee and Dannie

Deterioration

He was just 10 years old when he was diagnosed with the eye condition retinitis pigmentosa which brought the gradual deterioration of his sight. So much so that the father of three can now only see small flashes of bright then dull lights.

Dave said: "When I was 10 I was told I was going blind. I didn't have a clue what that meant. My grandad Frederick had lost his sight in his 20s too."

Dave suffered a blow when his failing sight led to his application to join the Army being rejected at the age of 18.

"That's when it hit me. I tried to hide it. I wouldn't have a white stick. I was a creature of habit. I went on the same path. I would count the steps to the bar," he said.

"Once I started to accept it, get the support I needed, everything changed. I couldn't believe I hadn't done it sooner."

Soon he was offered a guide dog which led to him seizing upon the idea to fundraise for the charity.

In 2002 he took part in the London Marathon, 35 years since he has last laced up his trainers. "The finish line provided the changing point in my life. Tears were running down, the noise, the sound. Amazing," he said.

A veteran of 14 London marathons, his later challenges have taken that one step further. He struck upon the idea for seven marathons, in seven continents in seven days after hearing explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes talk about it in 2003.

The mammoth challenge saw Dave win fame across the globe. It gave him the chance to hold talks for schoolchildren and forge strong links with his beloved West Bromwich Albion.

He was taken on the pitch at The Hawthorns to received a rousing round of applause from the Baggies faithful after that challenge.

And Dave's efforts led to him start supporting West Brom's charitable cause The Albion Foundation.

"I grew to know the work that they did. This sort of thing wasn't around when I was a kid," said Dave who is married to Deb and has three children – Grace, 25, Georgie-Lee, 14, and 12-year-old Dannie.

The challenges kept coming. And he isn't finished yet. He will be joined by West Brom legends Brendon Batson and Bob Taylor for the Baggies Bike Challenge with around 30 riders taking on a 180-mile cycling route from the home of Norwich City, Carrow Road, to The Hawthorns, between March 17 and 19.

Legendary explorer Sir Ranulph Fieness has penned the foreword to Blind Dave's book. Sir Ranulph writes: "I'm sure Dave will continue in his endeavours well into his twilight; after all, his fitness outstrips many younger men.

"A true inspiration."

From Light to Dark: The story of Blind Dave Heeley is now available. Dave has begun a book signing tour this week, with dates left for West Bromwich Central Library on Friday from 10.30am, Waterstones in Walsall on Saturday from 1pm and Smethwick Library on March 1, from 10.30am.

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So why bother paying car insurance?

I WITNESSED a hit and run. The young lad drove into the back of another car that had stopped at a mini island to wait for traffic to pass.

As the driver of the first car got out of his vehicle the lad backed up and drove away at speed before we could get registration details.

Luckily there did not seem to be too much damage but he has got away with it.

Three days ago my niece's car was hit by a hit and run driver, this time with considerable damage. She has a photograph of the vehicle involved in the accident with full registration number but she does not have an independent witness so the police are not interested (new policy apparently).

She has been in touch with her insurance who tell her the other car is not insured so she will have to pay the excess. When she informed the police that the other driver has no insurance they told her it is not their problem and it seems that even though they have proof of this handed to them on a plate they are not going to do anything about it. So he gets away with it.

Three weeks ago my cousin's daughter was knocked down on a crossing by a driver who overtook the other stationary vehicles, hit her, throwing her over the bonnet and then drove off. He left her with a broken leg, broken elbow, a cracked vertebrae and a great deal of bruising.

She will be off work for several weeks to recover but even though they have several witnesses and full details, up to the time of writing no-one has been arrested. Looks like they have got away with it. Why bother paying insurance?

J JAMES
Wordsley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Bus firms snub needs of patients

WE had bus No.88 which used to go from Blackheath to City Hospital, and the bus company in their wisdom stopped this service.

There are hundreds of people in and around where I live who now have to get a bus to Oldbury and then another to City Hospital. This is very difficult for elderly and infirm people. I have to get a friend there who is an amputee.

It does cost £20-plus for taxis, and we think bus companies should think about it when they make these decisions. We also have to go to the Queen Elizabeth from time to time, no through-bus to there either. They also took the 205 bus off which went direct to Russells Hall, again two buses.

The only consolation we have is that we have on our doorsteps the 4M to Sandwell Hospital.

So come on bus companies, think about other people for a change.

J ASHFORD
Rowley Regis

Growing concern over dogs in parks

THE recent letters advocating that dogs be excluded from certain areas of public parks shows that there is a growing disquiet with the takeover of these amenities by dogs and their owners. Haden Hill Park in Old Hill is a prime example.

Whilst I appreciate that the park is extremely popular with dog owners, the ability of individuals and families to enjoy the park is inhibited by the amount of dogs allowed to run loose. It is virtually impossible to walk the paths without seeing dogs rampaging through the flowerbeds.

Apart from the damage done, it is disconcerting to say the least to have to be constantly aware that the dog bounding towards you may not be of a docile demeanour. In some cases there are owners who bring three and more dogs to run free – surely they cannot be in control, or clean up after them all?

The park is funded by all council tax payers and those that do not wish to run the gauntlet of loose dogs have as much right to enjoy the park as those who wish to exercise their animals. If the dog owners had their own designated area, then the problem would not exist.

J PARKER
Cradley Heath

Tories seem economical with truth

WITH more global financial uncertainties looming, Mr Cameron and Mr Osborne were quick to tell us that they would probably need to use public finances and to borrow more to prop up the financial sector.

They also emphasised that it is all due to a slowdown in the global economy over which they have no control. Wasn't that exactly what the Labour Party had to do?

But Labour weren't facing just a 'slow down' the entire global economy was collapsing around them.

Faced with a similar but lesser crisis, Messrs Cameron and Osborne are now endorsing the actions taken by the previous Labour government. Yet during the elections of 2010 and 2015 the Conservatives were critical of Labour's actions. When it comes to economics, it seems the one thing the Conservatives are most economical with is the truth.

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

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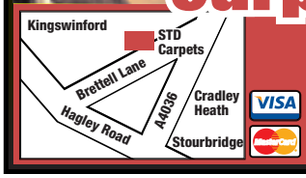

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Shame as absentees miss talk

Kingswinford TG

NUMBERS were low – mainly due to illness – for the February meeting at Kingswinford Community Centre. This was a pity, as the speaker for the evening was especially interesting. The subject of Mary Bodfish's talk was 'You can't abdicate and eat it.'

The ladies were held enthralled as the picture of a 20th century crisis was unfolded, step by step before them. To say more would spoil the talk for any other group wishing to hear it.

Chairman Enid Fennell announced that when the proceeds from the Christmas card collection were added to the guild's charity fund, they were able to send £140 to Sandilands Methodist Church in Cumbria.

The leaders of the various sections gave notice of their forthcoming events.

There will be no Wednesday club meeting in February, but the following month, on March 16, will be an open evening, when non-guild members will be very welcome to attend. There will be demonstrations of handmade jewellery making by Two Sisters Jewellery.

The Federation report was read in full by Joyce Robins.

The flowers for the chairman's table were provided by Brenda Greenaway, who kindly donated them as an extra raffle prize. She then went on to win one of the prizes.

The other winners were, Sue Wilson, Chris Grove and Ann Rogers.

The March meeting is the AGM.

Speaker tells tails of heroic animals

John Sparry, president Brenda Adkin, chairman Mary Jones and treasurer Sandra Chappell

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

AT the February luncheon, chairman Mary Jones welcomed two visitors and 35 members for a three-course lunch, the AGM and the return of the very popular local historian John Sparry as guest speaker.

The AGM gave Mary the opportunity to thank her committee, president and members for their support and generosity in 2015 and agreed to remain as chairman for another year, along with the present committee and new volunteer Sheila Gannon.

Mr Sparry had everyone smiling with his talk about remarkable animals, with stories about the Dickin medal being presented to heroic dogs and cats during the war, the part played by the humble pigeon flying through heavy gunfire to deliver important messages back home and two guide dogs that helped their owners down 70 floors to safety following the 9/11 attacks.

Ann Rogers is planning two outings in the spring and summer, starting with a visit to Himley Hall for a cream tea. The March 11 speaker will be local historian Chris Smith.

Meetings are held on the second Friday each month at 12.30pm. Enquiries to the secretary on 01902 372984 or chairman maryjones30@sky.com

Fish and chips to follow AGM

Grange E Guild

WITH the absence of chairman Hazel Smith through illness the February meeting was presided over by Chris Holton.

She welcomed one new member and five visitors. A get well card had been purchased for Hazel and members were asked to sign it to wish her a speedy recovery. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

Treasurer Jill Attwood gave a financial report and secretary Jean Williams informed of forthcoming events within the guild and West Midlands Federation.

Jacqueline Hill organised a quiz which was enjoyed by all and there was a small prize for everyone. Refreshments were served and the raffle was drawn with three lucky winners.

The next meeting will be the AGM on March 1 which will be followed by a fish and chip supper. The sales table will consist of items connected with Easter.

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Restored chapels to host weddings

Lye and Wollescote chapels have been restored and modernised as a venue for weddings and christenings

HISTORIC chapels given a second chance are ready to throw open their doors to soon-to-be-wed couples after undergoing a £1.2 million restoration.

Work to bring the Lye and Wollescote Chapels back into use after more than 20 years in the doldrums is complete, with the scaffolding around the building for months having been removed to reveal an impressive structure.

The Grade II listed chapels have been transformed from a tired and crumbling building to a site fit for the 21st century.

The building, in Cemetery Road, Lye, has been converted into a venue for civil ceremonies, including weddings and christenings, and renamed the Thomas Robinson Building after its original architect.

Some 40 couples have already enquired about holding ceremonies there.

Forever

The Victorian chapels have been closed since 1993 and there were real fears in recent years they could be knocked down and lost forever. The refurbishment has seen them maintain their historic character while ensuring they are fresh for a new era.

Masonry and stonework have been touched up, stain glass windows repaired and replaced, while the weather vane on top of the spire was taken away to be repaired.

History trails and information points are to be added to the cemetery to improve people's understanding of the significance of the site.

West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust secured a £1m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the project.

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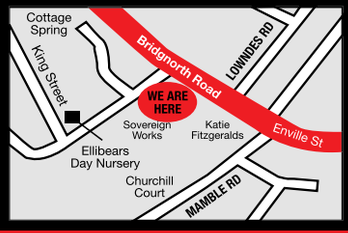

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Tickets on sale for charity ball

TICKETS are on sale for the Mayor of Sandwell's Gala Charity Ball, which will raise money for Acorns Children's Hospice.

The event is being held at Regis Hall, Reddal Hill Road, Cradley Heath, on Saturday, April 2 at 7pm. Doors open up at 6.30pm. The ball includes a drinks reception, a three-course meal with live entertainment and then dancing until midnight.

It costs £40 per ticket to the charity ball, or £350 for a table of 10 to attend with friends, family or business colleagues. Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Barbara Price, said: "I invite everyone to join us for a wonderful evening."

Call 0121 569 3041 or email mayors_parlour@sandwell.gov.uk

Councils selling on residents' details from the electoral roll

PERSONAL information is being routinely sold by councils across the Black Country and Staffordshire, it can be revealed.

The 'full' electoral roll – which lists the names and addresses of everyone registered to vote – was sold more than 116 times between 2011 and 2015, bringing in a total of £64,140 for local authorities. The 'edited' version – which is available to anyone to buy but can also be 'opted out' of – was sold more than 31 times over the same period, raking in an additional £4,326.

The practice of buying and selling the information is believed to contribute to the quantity of unsolicited junk mail sent out by private companies. Walsall Council recorded the most sales of the register between 2011 and 2015, selling the 'full' version 36 times and the 'edited' version 14 times, for a total of £18,686.50.

Dudley Council had a total income of £10,797 from 21 sales of the register with buyers including a wedding venue and banqueting suite. Sandwell Council recorded £16,068.50 in sales over the period but did not disclose the number of transactions. Wolverhampton Council brought in £11,331 from 29 sales of the register, including seven of the 'edited' version.

West Midlands UKIP Euro MP and Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge said: "People should be able to feel confident their details are kept safe and are not being sold on without their knowledge."

Firm wins £2m capital contract

STOURBRIDGE firm Argus Fire is to protect one of London's most prestigious new commercial developments and its occupants.

The fire protection and detection specialist in New Road has secured a contract worth more than £2 million with Brookfield Multiplex to design and install the sprinkler systems and water supplies for the £220m London Wall Place development in the City of London.

The landmark scheme, which comprises two office buildings of 12 and 16-storeys and their basements, is being developed by the London Wall Place Partnership.

Diamond couple who met at an RAF base

Ben and Mary Ball celebrating their 60th anniversary

A COUPLE from Dudley are celebrating six decades of wedded bliss, all thanks to the groom's sister. Mary Ball, 79, first met her future husband, Ben, now 83, when his sister Nelly invited her to visit an RAF base in Shropshire.

Ben, served from 1951 to 1956, with the catering corps. When Mary visited, he showed her around the base near Market Drayton and eventually plucked up the courage to ask her out.

Two years later they were married at Dudley register office, on February 11, 1956.

Parents

They began married life living with Ben's parents in Netherton and went on to live in Copse Road, where they raised their four children, Jean, Melvin, Wendy, and Vanessa who passed away four years ago.

Mary said: "I feel very fortunate to have reached this milestone with my beloved husband."

Ben was a furnace bricklayer in Bilston after his service and carried on working until he was 73. Mary worked at BSR, Old Hill, for 14 years.

They have eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

New partnership bid to run M6 Toll

THE up-for-sale M6 Toll could be run by a partnership between the Government and the new West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

Bosses at the WMCA say they are looking into the possibility of taking over the running of the road but admitted they need Government support. The under-used toll road has been put on the market by the banks that own it in an attempt to recoup some of the £1.9 billion they are owed.

Sandwell Council leader Darren Cooper, who sits on the WMCA shadow board, said he has written to Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin in a bid to thrash out a deal over the M6 Toll. "The fact that the M6 Toll is now up for sale gives us a chance to gain some level of control over it," he said. "As a combined authority we cannot do it on our own. We are looking at nearly £2bn, which is a lot of money, and that's why I am asking the Government to step in and help us."

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Steam hammer to fall again at museum

The Anchor Forge at the Black Country Living Museum, where the steam hammer will work again later this year

THE Black Country Living Museum is just £5,000 off its £99,000 goal to restore its Anchor Forge steam hammer, which was last operated in 1991.

The museum's 1920s Anchor Forge is a reconstruction of the last known working anchor forge in the Black Country. That closed in 1979, bringing to an end 140 years of anchor making in the region.

The project is currently at its very early stages of development but will be overseen by the museum's senior curator Dr John Beckerson.

The museum hopes to use a variety of interpretation methods to bring this exhibition's rich industrial history to life, including sound installations as well as its costumed characters. It aims to have the project completed and the steam hammer running by the autumn.

Greatest

It is anticipated the forge will be in operation for approximately 40 days of the year, though it will be on permanent display during opening hours.

The steam hammer is considered to be one of the greatest inventions of the Industrial Revolution, and one of the fundamental ways in which the power of steam was harnessed.

Carolyn Sankey, director of development at the museum, said: "This work is crucial to prevent the loss of an important piece of Black Country history. Once up and running, the immense sight and sounds of the Anchor Forge steam hammer in action will provide our visitors with the opportunity to learn even more about our unique industrial heritage."

More than £90,000 has so far been raised from a number of bodies and individuals but funds are still needed and any donations can be made by contacting the Tipton Road museum.

The restoration forms part of the Major Partner Museum programme, alongside partner, Culture Coventry.

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Fatal crash driver was over drink-drive limit

A FATHER-OF-ONE who died on Christmas Eve when the car he was driving hit a wall had been smoking cannabis and drinking alcohol, an inquest heard.

Karl Green, aged 34, and passenger Andrew Wheeler, 28, who also died in the crash, were travelling at double the speed limit when they hit a wall in Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, at midnight on December 24.

Unemployed Mr Green, of Marine Crescent, Wordsley, had 98 milligrams of alcohol in his blood, as well as 3.1 milligrams of cannabis. Mr Wheeler, who was also unemployed, had 202 milligrams of alcohol in his system. The legal limit is 80 milligrams for alcohol.

The inquest heard how they had been to a friend's house where they had been drinking and then they started arguing before they left to head back home.

Mr Green, who had a provisional driving licence and no insurance for his blue Citroen ZX, hit the kerb before hitting a wall next to a nail salon.

Father-of-one Karl Green died after the crash on Christmas Eve in Brettell Lane

Smoke

They were spotted by another driver, Thomas Matthews, and his girlfriend Kirsty Adams who called for the ambulance after seeing smoke coming from the car.

Mr Green was still alive when he was discovered, though Mr Matthews was unable to find a pulse on Mr Wheeler, of Audnam, Stourbridge.

Zafar Siddique, lead coroner for the Black Country, said: "There was catastrophic damage to the car through a totally devastating impact."

Pc Katrina Hall confirmed that by examining CCTV from a nearby chip shop, they could work out that the car was travelling almost double the 30mph speed limit at the time of the crash.

Mr Wheeler's sister Rebecca Wheeler said that her partner, a mechanic, had examined the car prior to the incident and advised Mr Green not to drive.

There was no suggestion anything was wrong with the car when the police carried out checks. Before getting into the car, it is believed Mr Green and Mr Wheeler were arguing about whether Mr Green's young daughter Immie should be allowed to travel in the car the next day.

Mr Siddique said that a toxicology report revealed that the amount of cannabis in Mr Green's system indicated there was a high possibility he smoked the substance 'recently' before driving. He confirmed that the affects of cannabis on driving is slower reaction times.

He concluded that death was caused by way of a road traffic collision, adding: "It is an absolute tragedy for both families."

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Kingsway 7pm
Tel Jo : 07725 987340

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Peters Hill Primary School
Peters Hill Road 6pm and 7.30pm
Tel Lynne : 01384 455427

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Dingle Community Centre
Madeley Road 5 pm & 7 pm
Tel Diane : 07974 657589

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School Drive 5.30pm and 7.15pm
Tel Caroline : 01562 888315

Brierley Hill
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Gayfield Avenue 7pm
Tel Lynne : 01384 455427

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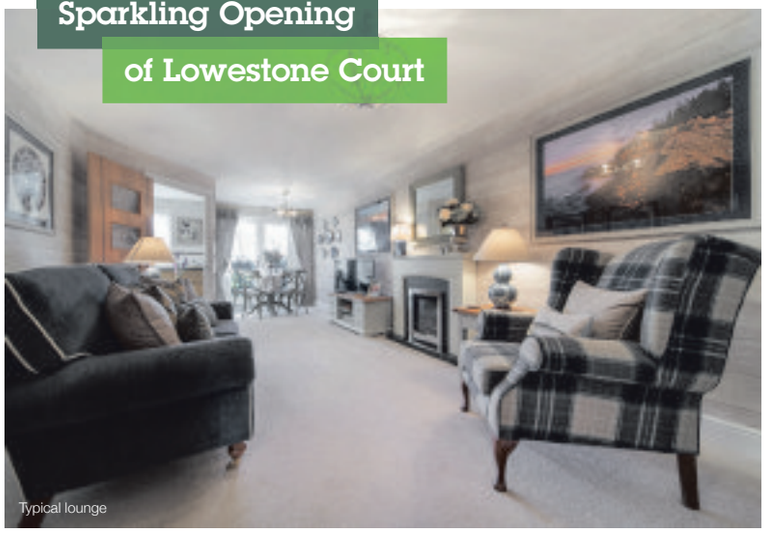
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Hospital's £800k revamp is nearing completion

AN £800,000 revamp of Rowley Regis Hospital to create new clinics and a bigger car park is nearing completion.

The overall works are due to finish in the second week of March and hospital bosses say the facilities will deliver many benefits for patients and staff.

Work started last summer at the Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust-run site to deliver more local services to residents – part of the trust's longer term plan for Sandwell.

It came at a time when there were fears amongst some patients the hospital could close. But bosses hope the refurbishment will quell those worries and show the facility has a bright future.

Toby Lewis, chief executive of the trust, said: "Rowley Regis is a big part of our long-term 2020 Vision for the NHS in Sandwell.

"Through the newly expanded facilities, we want to deliver more outpatient care on the site, as well as expanding our rehabilitation services for people needing longer term care closer to home."

Major

It is the first major investment at the hospital for 21 years and the hospital has been able to function as normal while it has been refurbished.

The majority of the plans were drawn up with the help of and input from patients and staff.

A new gym has been built and a colourful outpatient ward features eye-catching photographic prints of nature scenes. Other existing services that have been expanded include phlebotomy, physiotherapy and paediatric.

A car park with 35 spaces has been added, freeing up other spaces at the site for patients. A new primary care and treatment centre, which helps accident and emergency services, has been built.

The planning process has been the vision of NHS trust project manager Paul Scott, who has overseen most of it.

He said: "Rowley hospital is loved and cherished by the community."

Watercolours come home

Dudley artist Martin Poole's canal and urban based work has gone on display at a new waterside exhibition at The Portal in Dudley

A BLACK Country artist says his paintings have come home after he launched a new waterside exhibition at the Dudley Canal Trust new HQ The Portal.

Martin Poole has brought a selection of his works, many inspired by the region's industrial heritage, o the site on the Birmingham New Road, which is near to his home.

Many of his creations featuring waterways from across the country – making them watercolour paintings in more ways than one.

He developed a love of the canals in Dudley when he explored them as a youngster, he explained.

One of his paintings on display, called 'A Tight Squeeze', is a watercolour based on sketches of the entrance to the canal trust tunnels and limestone mines.

His work will overlook the canal in the centre's new exhibition space for the several weeks.

Tipton-born Martin, who has spent time in the Canadian wilderness and has also been a teacher and soldier, has been drawing since he was a young boy.

Firm invests in the future

HALESOWEN business TotalKare is investing in its future by taking on apprentices.

The former Somers TotalKare operation at Coombs Wharf, Chancel Way, has just appointed three young people to its established apprenticeship programme.

The heavy duty vehicle lifts firm believes that developing the next generation of engineers, managers and administrators is essential to its long term success. George Jackson, Ryan Skinner and Dalvir Singh Suthi are looking forward to rewarding careers.

Currently studying for a business administration level three qualification at Halesowen College, 18-year-old former Kingswinford School pupil George is also working as a service contract executive at the Halesowen-based firm.

Meanwhile Ryan, 19, who went to Hillcrest Secondary School in Netherton, is receiving on the job training as an apprentice engineer. Former Hamstead Hall Six Form pupil Dalvir, 21, is studying for an Association of Accounting Technicians qualification whilst working as a finance assistant.

Tim Jackson, the managing director of TotalKare, said: "We are fully committed to our apprenticeship programme as we see it as important investment in the company's own future, as well as being to the long-term benefit of the wider UK economy.

"The country has an ongoing skills shortage, and it's important for businesses of all sizes and from across all industry sectors to step up to the plate and take on apprentices to equip young people with the skills they will need for a rewarding career while helping to drive economic growth."

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Bully opens BodyKraft's new £250k repair centre

FORMER Wolves and England striker Steve Bull has opened a new £250,000 accident repair centre in Kingswinford.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, was also among the guests when an open day was held at BodyKraft's new Fastrack centre.

BodyKraft has invested £250,000 in the new state-of-the-art accident facility which has created 12 new jobs.

The new 6,202 sq ft centre at Second Avenue on the Pensnett Trading Estate is opened for business earlier this month.

BodyKraft also has sites at Canal Street, Merry Hill, Brierley Hill, and at Drayton Street, Wolverhampton.

The accident repair business, which was launched in 1998 with eight workers, has grown to employ 90 across its sites.

The firm has also just become a member of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce's patron group.

BodyKraft, which was founded in 1998, has West Midlands Police and Wolverhampton-based Carillion among its customers and also carries out fleet work and light commercial vehicle repairs.

Spraying

The new service will focus on minor body repairs.

Through latest technology, it will accelerate the spraying and drying of customers' vehicles to just five minutes – helped by a £78,000 moveable spray booth and UV infrared drying system – the only technology of its type in the region.

It will handle up to 12 vehicles per day.

Wolves legend Steve Bull, right, with Bodykraft MD Mike Pugh and Mayor of Dudley Steve Waltho

£35m revamp for the Mander Centre

WORK has started on a huge £35 million revamp of landmark Wolverhampton shopping centre the Mander Centre, which will completely overhaul the city centre site.

The first refurbishments are underway at the centre, which will be anchored by a 90,000 sq ft Debenhams and is set to be completed in October 2017.

Robert Gough, the shopping centre's new commercial retail manager, has held meetings with the city's major stakeholders since taking up his post just before Christmas. A former senior boss at Debenhams, he says the money invested in the project will mean that Wolverhampton will be able to compete with major retail centres across the UK.

He said: "First and foremost I want to do something different. I've met with the asset owners and key consultants and I want to make a mark that's lasting. There's so much goodwill to make the city a better place."

The 39-year-old retail chief takes on the challenge at a critical time in retail with the traditional shopping experience facing a challenge from online shopping.

Lord Jones serious on making a mayoral bid

LORD Digby Jones says he is 'seriously considering' running for mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

The 60-year-old former director-general of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said his passion for the region, coupled with expertise and connections in the business world, meant he had the right attributes to oversee the combined authority.

The region is set to elect its first mayor in 2017. Last October, Lord Jones rated his chances of running for mayor as 'no more than five or 10 per cent', but he admitted he has warmed to the idea since.

Lord Digby Jones: connected

Speaking at the launch of two new LEMA academies for engineering apprentices in Dudley and Birmingham (see page 14), Lord Jones said he would only run for the position as an independent candidate.

"I will not fight on a party ticket," he explained. "I will do it as a non-party person or not at all. I'm internationally well-connected, which would help with overseas investment, and I'm known in London, which would help with banging the drum there.

"On the other hand, I wonder if this is really a job for a 40-year-old, plus not standing for a political party means all the money and power of Labour and the Conservatives would be against me.

Care

"I have given this a great deal of thought. I have very clear views and an independent spirit. I care enormously and the position is something I am seriously considering."

Lord Jones served as trade minister under Gordon Brown, becoming the first minister in the country who didn't belong to the party of government.

He urged the entire region to get behind the WMCA.

"There's a bus leaving town, and we're either going to be on it or we're not," he said. "As a region it is time for everyone to bury their differences and come together.

"You're going to go to London to get the money and you're going to take the fight to the world and you're going to win it. That needs leadership.

"I would like to see every taxpayer in the West Midlands being given a vote for a leader, who would then appoint their own cabinet. Some of that cabinet would be political, and some would be appointed. Wouldn't it be great to have a doctor in charge of the hospitals in the West Midlands or a headteacher in charge of education?"

Last month, Labour announced it would pick a mayoral candidate in July through a members ballot.

But Lord Jones said the role may not be best suited to someone aligned to a particular political party. He said: "The position is too important for that."

Uni banks on support

THE University of Wolverhampton has signed a £120,000 agreement with banking giant Santander, which will bring an array of opportunities for students.

These will include scholarships and work experience. The agreement will see the bank support students at the university through a scholarship scheme worth £40,000 a year, over the next three years.

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Official opening of canal centre by Princess Royal

The Portal visitor centre at Dudley Canal Trust has a restaurant, function room and displays about the limestone caverns

HRH The Princess Royal will be paying a visit to Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust's new visitor centre next month for the official grand opening.

Princess Anne will take a tour of The Portal, completed in September last year.

She will then go on to meet individuals who have played a key role in the project.

Children from nearby Wren's Nest Primary School have also been invited to the grand opening, and will be treated to an educational workshop in the centre's new learning suite, allowing The Princess Royal to see the building in use.

Jeff Luesley, chairman of the trust, said: "The Princess Royal's visit is a real culmination of everybody's hard work on this seven-year project. To finally see our new centre opened by royalty is truly an honour."

The multi-million pound Portal building marked a significant improvement in facilities for the site. The centre is home to an exhibition gallery which details the history of the Dudley Canal Tunnel and Limestone Caverns, a new restaurant and learning suite.

The event, on March 14, will be attended strictly by invited guests only.

HRH The Princess Royal

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Life-saving deal for more defibrillators

Professor Geoff Layer and Anthony Marsh sign the deal to make defibrillators more widely available

LIFE-SAVING defibrillators will be introduced at 30 locations across the Black Country and Birmingham. It follows a deal between West Midlands Ambulance Service and the University of Wolverhampton.

The university is pledging to install the defibrillators at its campuses in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Telford and Burton as well as at partner academy schools including The ACE Academy in Tipton, Featherstone Academy and Pye Green Academy, Cannock. An automated external defibrillator helps to restart the heart of someone in cardiac arrest.

Professor Geoff Layer, vice chancellor at the university and West Midlands Ambulance Services chief executive officer Anthony Marsh met to officially sign the memorandum of understanding. Mr Marsh said: "We've helped to install thousands of defibrillators and trained 60,000 people in life-saving CPR skills across the region." Professor Layer added: "It's really important that we officially show support and commitment to the ambulance service, helping them to provide a rapid response in the event that someone suffers a cardiac arrest on our premises."

Driver hit over head with handle of pickaxe

A FURIOUS motorist who smashed another driver over the head with a pickaxe handle, splintering part of his skull in a road rage attack has been jailed.

Eugene Hamilton believed Michael Anderson had pulled out in front of him outside a fast food restaurant, a judge was told.

The jobless 36-year-old followed the victim's BMW from the McDonald's car park on to the Hagley Road in Quinton where he forced him to stop, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Gunpoint

Hamilton then took the pickaxe handle from the boot of his Audi TT and hit defenceless Mr Anderson over the head as he emerged from his vehicle.

A passing armed police patrol in an unmarked car saw the attacker standing over the prone victim so aggressively that they arrested him at gunpoint, said Mr Kevin Grego, prosecuting.

Builder Mr Anderson, who had recently recovered from a stroke and had stopped at the car park to collect a workmate on the way to a job, received a 'depressed and splintered' fracture to the skull as well as a bleed on the brain.

by John Scott

Father-of-one Hamilton, who had eight previous convictions, had sought psychological help for 'impulsivity and getting things out of proportion' shortly before the attack and had since been treated for a personality disorder, said Mr Peter Radcliff, defending.

Hamilton, of Attingham Drive, Dudley pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm to Mr Anderson on October 30 2013 and was jailed for three years four months.

Recorder Barry Berlin said: "I have to protect the public from people like you who go around with a pickaxe handle bashing people over the head."

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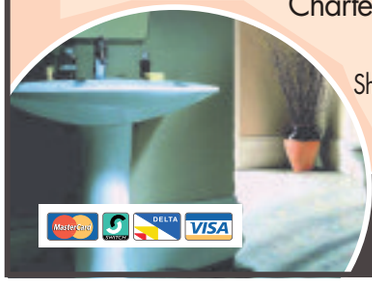

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Grand will hip-hop Into The Hoods

Student dancers from the Black Country who took part in the ZooNation showcase at the Grand Theatre last month

A HIP-HOP dance theatre production that took London's West End by storm is coming to Wolverhampton this month – and they have helped Black Country dancers create a curtain-raiser routine.

Into the Hoods: Remixed will be staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from tonight (Thursday) to Saturday.

The award-winning show, by ZooNation dance company, is produced by Sadler's Wells associate artist Kate Prince and tells the story of two lost schoolchildren. Based on Little Red Riding Hood, the piece is set in the 'Ruff Endz Estate' and uses hip hop dance to show the youngsters' journey, meeting such characters as DJ Spinderella and rapper Rap On Zel.

With support from Arts Connect, the Grand and ZooNation have created an outreach scheme that provided opportunities for dance students in local schools and colleges to work with the professional choreographers.

Showcase

In the showcase at the theatre last month, each school presented a dance routine based around a fairytale.

The dancers chosen are from Coppice Performing Arts School, St Mathias School, Highfields School, City Of Wolverhampton College, South Wolverhampton & Bilston Academy, The King's CE School, Birmingham Ormiston Academy, Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy, Halesowen College, Moreton School, George Salter Academy and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy.

The dancers will create a 'curtain raiser' routine with ZooNation to be performed before the opening performance at the Grand tonight (Thursday) and again on Saturday night.

Tickets range from £12.50 to £28.50. Children's tickets cost from £10 to £26. For more information call 01902 429212.

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Step change

39 Steps is given comedy makeover
Page 23

Rewriting History

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Wet Wet Wet

Tomorrow, 6pm
Genting Arena, B'ham
Marti Pellow now spends more time in musical theatre than as a pop singer, including a spell in Brum's big panto, but he's back with the band for The Big Picture Tour.
Visit **www.gentingarena.co.uk**

WNO's Figaro Forever

Tuesday - March 5, 7pm
Birmingham Hippodrome
WNO leap into spring with its Figaro Forever trilogy, with Rossini's The Barber of Seville, Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro and new work Figaro Gets A Divorce.
www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Jess Glynne

Tomorrow, 6pm
O2 Academy, B'ham
Fresh from topping the charts with her debut album I Cry When I Laugh and five No1 singles including Hold My Hand, the 26-year-old Londoner will sing to a packed Academy.
Visit **www.academymusicgroup.com**

Fun Lovin' Criminals

Tonight, 7pm
O2 Institute, B'ham
BBC Radio 6 DJ and native New Yorker Huey Morgan marks 20 years since his band's debut album Come Find Yourself and breakthrough single Scooby Snacks.
Visit **o2institutebirmingham.co.uk**

POP & ROCK

Tori Kelly
Sat at 6.30pm - 10.50pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Sabaton & Alestorm
Sun at 6.30pm, £19
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The X Factor Live
Sat at 1pm, 6pm,
Genting Arena,
Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Otava Yo
Wed at 8pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Ulrich Schnauss
Fri at 7pm,
The Rainbow,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

The Rifles
Wed at 7pm, £14.50
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Meatloaf Greatest Hits Tour
Tue at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Therapy?
Wed at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

The Cult
Tue at 7pm - 11pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The ELO Experience
Thu at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Fearless Vampire Killers
Thu at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Bee Gees Fever
Tue at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

White
Thu at 7pm,
The Rainbow,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Blue Nation
Fri at 6pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Stray
Sun at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Tonight Alive
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The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Keith James SolidAir Concert
Wed at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Devon Allman & His Band
Mon at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

British Sea Power
Sat at 8pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Foxes
Thu at 7pm - 11pm, £14
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Alex Ohm
Fri at 6pm - 10pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Hostile
Sat at 6.45pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Jess Glynne
Fri at 6pm, £14 - £18.50
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
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Stiff Little Fingers
Tue at 7.30pm, £18.50 - £20
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ. 01902 401211

Leona Lewis
Sun at 7pm, £29.50
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Wet Wet Wet
Fri at 7.30pm,
£43.20 - £48.70
Genting Arena,
Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Gunnrunner
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Mr Ben
Fri at 11pm, Sat at 11pm,
The Jam House,
Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

So2f
Fri at 7pm, £6
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Ashley Hutchings' Morris On
Sat at 8pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
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BLUES & JAZZ

Wolverhampton Blues, Rhythm And Rock Festival
Sat at 2pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms
WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Sax In The City: The Notebenders
Sat at 1.30pm,
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Christopher Orton & Tomoko Matsuoka
Fri at 1.10pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

Chamber Music Night
Sat at 7.30pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

BICS 2015/16 Harry Bicket And The English Concert
Fri at 6.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Gilbert O'Sullivan
Mon at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Celebration Of Music
Mon at 7pm, Wed at 7pm, Thu at 7pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Birmingham Cathedral Tercentenary Festival Of Voices (The 20th Century)
Sat at 5pm - 8pm, £6 - £10
Birmingham Cathedral,
B3 2QB.
Call 0121 262 1840

CBSO 2015-16 - The Firebird
Thu at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £43
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

BICS 2015/16: Philharmonia Orchestra
Tue at 7.30pm, £9.50 - £50
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Symphonic Rock
Sat at 1.30pm, 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Welsh National Opera: The Barber Of Seville
Tue at 7.15pm, £16.50 - £50
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B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Welsh National Opera: The Marriage Of Figaro
Wed at 7pm, £16.50 - £50
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Welsh National Opera: Figaro Gets A Divorce
Thu at 7.15pm, £16.50 - £50
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Star Wars & Beyond
Fri at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Let's Hang On: Tribute To Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons
Sat at 7.30pm, £22 - £24
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Horrible Histories: Groovy Greeks
Wed at 7pm, Thu at 10.30am,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
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Call 01902 573320

Ellen Kent Opera & Ballet International: Puccini's Tosca
Sun at 7.30pm - 11.30pm,
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New Alexandra Theatre,
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Horrible Histories: Incredible Invaders
Thu at 1.30pm,
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The Musicians
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Arcanum
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre,
Kidderminster,
DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

The Tailor Of Inverness
Thu at 8pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Breaking The Code By Hugh Whitemore
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Single Spies
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Flying Solo
Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

ZooNation: Into The Hoods: Remixed
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The 39 Steps
Mon at 7pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Jamie Raven
Fri at 7pm, £19.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Birmingham Royal Ballet: Romeo And Juliet
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm, £16 - £52
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

Charity Comedy Night
Sun at 7.30pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Birmingham Is Funny: Rich Stokes: The Secret Of Happiness
Sat at 7.30pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

The Laughing Sole Comedy For Kids
Sun at 2pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Adam Hills: Clown Heart
Sun at 8pm,
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Tom Stade: You're Welcome!
Wed at 6.45pm - 11pm,
£16.50 - £18.70
The Glee Club,
Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Horrible Histories takes to the stage

The dark ages go daft with Horrible Histories crew, Holly Morgan with, Andrew Alton and Elliot Fitzpatrick, at the Grand

VIKINGS, Romans and the Saxons will be invading the Black Country when Horrible Histories takes to the stage with two new plays aimed at teaching children, and their parents, more about our gruesome past.

The shows by the Birmingham Stage Company will be performed at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Wednesday, March 2, to Saturday, March 5, including matinee performances.

The plays follow the success of the BBC children's programme, based on a series of hit books by Terry Deary.

The first show, Incredible Invaders, will reveal the grisly reality behind the history of the cut-throat Celts and the invasion by those ruthless Romans. Then the savage Saxons smash their way in and the vicious Vikings sail in too.

The second show goes to even earlier times, when those Groovy Greeks will take the audience from savage Sparta to angry Athens to discover the truth about Ancient Greece.

The audience can take part in the Trojan War, compete in the first Olympics and appear in a Greek play... but watch out you don't get munched by the monstrous Minotaur or zapped by Zeus.

The shows feature actors and 3D special effects. Call (01902) 429212 or visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Watch your step old boy

LONG-RUNNING West End show Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps is coming to Birmingham Rep as part of its tenth anniversary tour.

Based both on Hitchcock's 1935 film and John Buchan's 1914 spy thriller, the Olivier Award-winning comedy sees the funny side of British gung-ho and the stiff upper lip (and indeed the pencil moustache above it).

The four actors – Richard Ede, Olivia Greene, Andrew Hodges and Rob Witcomb – will play more than 130 characters between them in around 100 minutes.

Patrick Barlow's adaptation opened at the Tricycle in 2006 and the same year transferred to the Criterion Theatre on Piccadilly Circus, where it ran for nine years.

Chase

It also arrived on Broadway in 2008 and won a coveted Tony Award for best play.

The story – a frenetic chase from London to the Scottish Highlands – was famously adapted for the screen by Hitchcock and the stage production references a number of the famous scenes, including the chase on the Flying Scotsman train, escape on the Forth Road Bridge and the notorious stockings and suspenders scene.

Directed by Maria Aitken and designed by Peter McKintosh, The 39 Steps will be staged at the Rep in Centenary Square from Monday to Saturday, February 29 to March 5.

Black Country is getting the blues

THE first Wolverhampton Blues, Rhythm and Rock Festival will be taking place over eight hours on Saturday.

At the Slade Rooms in the city, the festival is being headlined by British blues legends Stan Webb's Chicken Shack.

Also on the bill are The Brew, The Rainbreakers, Rebecca Downes, Peoples Republic of Mercia and Southbound. The music starts at 2pm and will go on until 10pm. Tickets cost £23. See www.wolverhamptonblues festival.co.uk for further details.

Meanwhile, The Blues Band featuring Paul Jones, Dave Kelly, Tom McGuinness, Gary Fletcher and Rob Towsend play Bilston's Robin 2 tonight (Thu).

Freezin nights out with them Fizzogs

BLACK Country comedy team The Fizzogs are bringing their new show to Wolverhampton University's Arena Theatre this weekend.

They will be performing Freezin, a spoof of the Disney movie Frozen, in public shows at the Wulfruna Street venue tomorrow evening and again on Saturday, at 7.30pm. The show is suitable for those aged 14 and over, tickets are £12.

The Fizzogs found fame when their 'dancing grannies' routine went viral on the internet and were regular performers at the Black Country Living Museum. They proved a hit at last year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Rocker returns in a Blaze of glory

HEAVY rocker Blaze Bayley, who fronted Wolfsbane and Iron Maiden, is playing a free record shop gig in Wolverhampton on Saturday. The singer will be performing an acoustic set and signing albums at Vinyl & Vintage on Cleveland Street, Wolverhampton, from 2.30 to 4pm. Blaze has a gig that evening at the Cock and Magpie pub, Severnside North, Bewdley.

Other rock veterans in action: The Cult at O2 Institute on Tuesday, the same night Alternative Ulster punks Stiff Little Fingers are at Bilston's Robin 2. Fellow Northern Irish rockers Therapy? are at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on Wednesday.

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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, February 25, 2016

CHOICE

Lee Mead

Casualty (BBC1, 9pm)
Part one of two. Lofty struggles with the pressures of his new position when he is asked to run the nursing team for the day. He manages to secure a small victory by removing a disruptive patient from the premises, but his actions backfire when the same patient is brought back to the emergency department with a life-threatening injury. Things only get worse when a silly mistake causes an agency nurse to receive a shock from a defibrilator, and the error appears to leave Lofty's career in tatters. Meanwhile, a miserable Big Mac tries to apologise to Noel for his deception, but when Louise attempts to get to the bottom of his troubles, he misses another opportunity to tell the truth.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Continent. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** Dynamo: Magician Impossible. **5.50** BBC News.

6.00 Regional Programme.

6.10 The Getaway Car. A Swansea mother-son duo, a chauffeur and his girlfriend, a pair of "racey blondes", two brothers from Sunderland, and Brighton-based life-partners compete in car-based challenges.

7.00 The Voice UK. The blind auditions are over, and with the teams now assembled, Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson must whittle their chosen groups down in the Battle phase. In each round, two artists from the same team are challenged to compete against each other in a vocal showdown, with their own superstar coaches deciding which of them will progress to the Knockout stage. However, each battle's losing artist has one last chance to remain in the contest. Should their performance win over another of the coaches, they can choose to make use of a last-minute "steal" to secure the unsuccessful singer for their own team.

9.00 Casualty. Part one of two. Disaster strikes in the Emergency Department after Lofty takes charge of the nursing team, and a miserable Big Mac tries to apologise to Noel for his deception.

9.50 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin presents as the winning numbers are revealed.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents action from the latest Premier League matches, featuring Leicester City v Norwich City at King Power Stadium and West Ham United v Sunderland at Upton Park; National Lottery Update.

11.40 Film: The Tuxedo. (2002) A bumbling chauffeur dons a secret agent's hi-tech suit and sets out with a rookie spy to thwart a plot to take over the world. Comedy adventure, with Jackie Chan.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.55 Animal Park. (R) **7.50 Film:** Invaders from Mars. (1953) **9.15 Film:** The Password Is Courage. (1962) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.45** Rick Stein's India. (R) **1.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **2.15** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **2.45 Film:** Up Periscope. (1959) Second World War naval adventure, with James Garner. **4.30** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.30 Back in Time for the Weekend. The Ashby-Hawkins family embrace the 1980s, where TV and shopping dominated the UK's leisure time. It's also the decade where technology arrives in homes in a significant way. Kids Daisy and Seth are thrilled by the new VCR and home computer, and there's even a pager for mum Steph who's now a shoulder padded businesswoman. When dad Rob is not trying out the kids' CB radio, he's going shopping for a Don Johnson makeover with fashion guru Caryn Franklin. (R)

7.30 Queen Victoria's Children. Documentary exploring the reign of the monarch through her relationships with her husband and their children, using letters, diaries, memoirs and journals to bring the subject and characters to life. The first episode focuses on Victoria and Prince Albert's tempestuous marriage, their attempts to engineer the upbringing of their children and their efforts to save the monarchy by projecting a modern image of the royal family. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. A night at the cinema and a black-market toasted cheese sandwich make Mainwaring have an unusual dream in which he is Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo. (R)

9.00 Stag. New series. A timid schoolteacher tags along on his brother-in-law's stag weekend in the Scottish Highlands, which quickly turns messy. Black comedy, starring Jim Howick.

10.00 Film: Spike Island. (2012) Premiere. Five teenagers make a life-changing journey across Britain in the summer of 1990 to see the Stone Roses in concert. Drama, starring Elliott Tittensor.

11.40 They Came from Manchester: The Story of Mancunian Pop.

12.40 Film: The Secret in Their Eyes. (2009) **2.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Jessie. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** River Monsters. (R) **1.00** Regional Programme ; Weather. **1.10** ITV News; Weather. **1.25** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v Scotland (Kick-off 2.25pm). **4.25** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Ireland (Kick-off 4.50pm).

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The presenter duo are joined by Gino D'Acampo for the first I'm a Celebrity, Get Out of Me Ear! of the new series. Canadian rocker Bryan Adams takes part in Singalong Live! and former X Factor winners Little Mix get wild in a special End of Show Show. Ant and Dec also introduce the premiere of a new mystery thriller, Who Shot Simon Cowell?, and offer one lucky member of their audience a chance to Win the Ads. Plus, the usual selection of surprises, undercover pranks and competitions.

8.30 Take Me Out. Paddy McGuinness invites more would-be Romeos to enters the "love lift" and claim the hearts of his 30 single women. This time, the men seeking to win a date are Louis, a debt collector from Great Yarmouth, Tenby-based tugboat skipper Patrick, Thomas, a chorister from Arundel, and Oxford stunt-man Jon. Each will be seeking a companion to whisk off to the Isle of Fernandos, but first they must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval.

9.45 ITV News; Weather.

10.00 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host subjects another batch of celebrity guests to no-holds-barred questioning. Plus, musical performances by A-list bands and solo artists.

11.05 Film: Invictus. (2009) Clint Eastwood's factual drama.

1.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** Frostgun Invitational. **7.30** Freeride World Tour. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Kempton Park, Newcastle and Lingfield Park. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. On the final night in Darlington, Co Durham, Audra plans to win over her guests with genuine Italian cuisine followed by a mysterious tiramisini, which is not to everyone's liking. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Great Canal Journeys. Built nearly a century before the British canal system, the Canal du Midi in the south of France has been designated a world heritage site. Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore a picturesque stretch, as is it meanders toward the Mediterranean. They visit the town of Beziers and the Malpas Tunnel – Europe's first navigable canal tunnel – and taste the delights of lamb's brain fritters, as well as brandy that is almost 200 years old. (R)

8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. The actress travels through Royal Deeside, a remote part of Aberdeenshire, featuring enormous estates served by tiny communities, with five people for every square kilometre. Previously seen on More4.

9.00 Film: Taken 2. (2012) Former CIA agent Bryan Mills and his ex-wife Lenore are taken hostage in Istanbul by an Albanian gangster, whose son Bryan killed while bringing down a kidnapping ring. He is able to escape with the aid of his daughter, and together they fight to rescue Lenore and wipe out the criminal family. Thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson.

10.55 Film: Braveheart. (1995) Historical epic, directed by and starring Mel Gibson.

2.05 Hollyoaks. (R) **4.15** Undercover Boss Canada. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.50** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** 87 Stone: Fat Chance of Work – SuperSized. (R) **3.00** Benefits: Me & My 26 Kids. (R) **4.00** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **5.00** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? Benefits Special. The agents grapple with emotional evictions and moral dilemmas as a young family is made homeless, an acrimonious divorce comes to a head, and an off-licence battles to stay open. (R)

7.00 World War II in Colour. By late summer 1944, the Allied forces in Europe were thrusting toward the German border, but supply problems brought the advance to a halt, while Soviet leader Josef Stalin had halted his main push to Berlin while he laid the basis for a Communist empire. Hitler decided to stake his last reserves on a major counter-offensive in the Ardennes region of Belgium, leading to what became known as the Battle of the Bulge. Meanwhile, Soviet troops discovered the first death camps and evidence emerged of the Nazi programme to exterminate the Jewish people. (R)

8.00 The Gadget Show. Jon Bentley looks at the latest raft of budget smartphones – all of which claim to offer superior features at an affordable price. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the latest matches in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Derby County at Molineux.

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals from League One and League Two.

10.30 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. The team investigates the murder of a teenage girl when a photograph of the crime scene is leaked online, and the victim's father and therapist soon emerge as prime suspects. (R)

11.20 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** BAMMA 24. **5.00** Chinese Food in Minutes.

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 How Earth Made Us **8.00** The Inca: Masters of the Clouds **9.00** Trapped **10.40** The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse **12.10** Neil Sedaka: King of Song **1.10** Neil Sedaka Says: All You Need Is the Music **2.00** The Joy of the Single **3.00** Top of the Pops: 1981 **3.40** Close

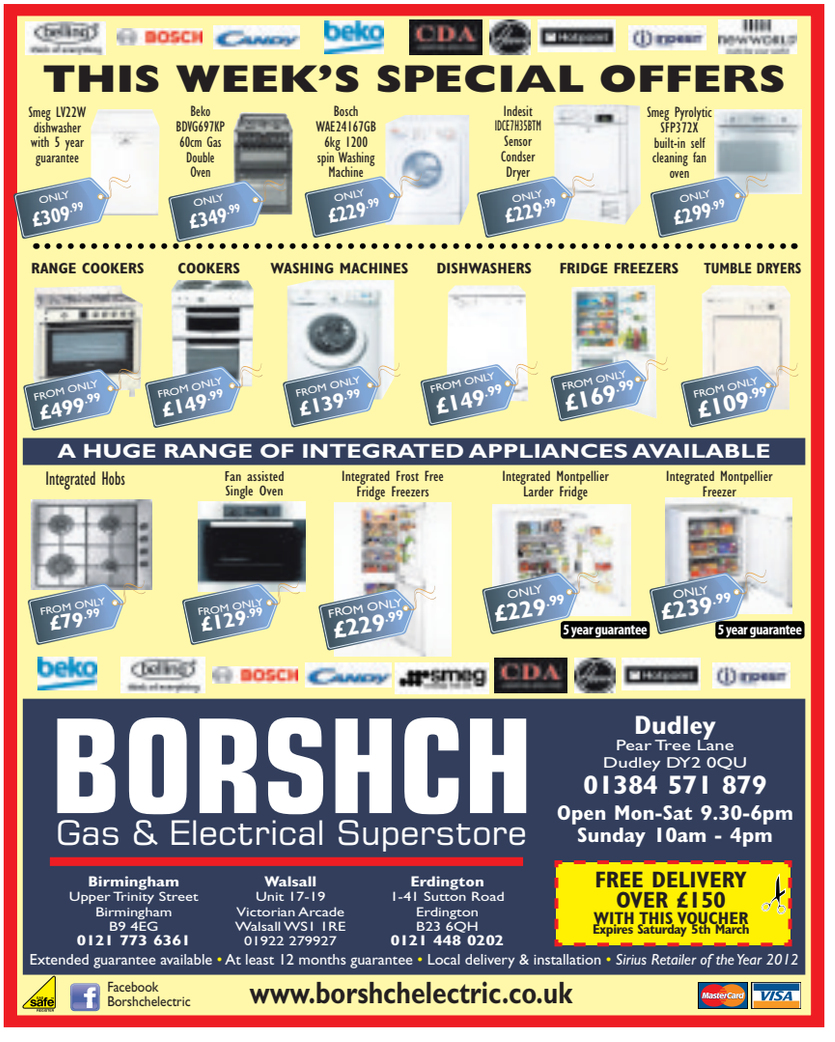
ITV2
11.05 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.40** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **1.40** Scorpion **2.35 Film:** Baby Mama (2008) **4.35** Catchphrase **5.20 Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **7.25 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **9.45** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.45** Ibiza Weekender **11.50** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.20 Film:** Not Another Teen Movie (2001) **2.10** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands **3.00** Teleshopping

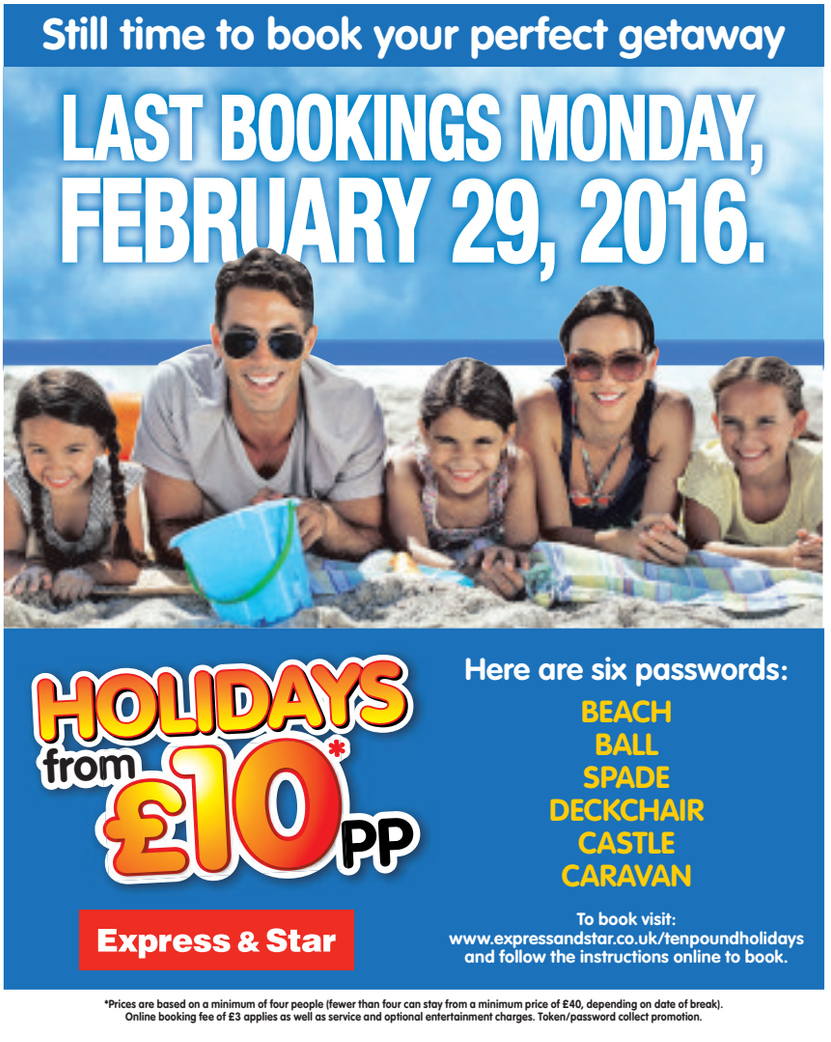
ITV3
6.00 Midsomer Murders **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.00** Blue Murder **1.35** Judge Judy **1.55** Movies Now **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
12.45 Storage Wars **1.40 Film:** Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **4.15 Film:** Superman (1978) **7.10 Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **9.00 Film:** Tremors (1989) **10.55 Film:** Raw Deal (1986) **1.05 Film:** The Jerk (1979) **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 How I Met Your Mother **12.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.00** The Jump **3.00 Film:** Maid in Manhattan (2002) **5.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Knight and Day (2010) A woman gets kidnapped and dragged into a rogue secret agent's mission to clear his name after he is framed as a traitor. Comedy adventure, starring Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz. **11.05** Tattoo Fixers **12.10** Gogglebox **2.20** Virtually Famous **3.00** The Inbetweeners **3.50** Rules of Engagement **4.35** Revenge

Film4
11.00 Fixed Bayonets! (1951) **1.00** Black Knight (2001) **2.50** Magic in the Water (1995) **4.50** Just Wright (2010) **6.50** The Other Boleyn Girl (2008) **9.00** The Impossible (2012) A family spending Christmas in Thailand are separated in the 2004 tsunami and struggle to find each other in the ensuing chaos. Drama, with Naomi Watts. **11.10** The Craft (1996) Teenage witches use their powers to take revenge on classmates who have wronged them, but their leader's lust for power drives her mad. Horror, with Robin Tunney. **1.15** 4.3.2.1 (2010) **3.35** Close





CHOICE

Michael Gambon

Churchill's Secret (ITV, 8pm)
Michael Gambon stars as Winston Churchill in this feature-length drama based on Jonathan Smith's novel. In 1953, a nurse (Romola Garai) is summoned to a secret location where she learns she is needed to treat the elderly prime minister, who has suffered a stroke and is not expected to survive. She bears witness as Churchill's family gather by his bedside preparing for the worst, and sees the long-buried tensions between them rising to the surface. Also starring Lindsay Duncan, Bill Paterson, Tara Fitzgerald, Rachael Stirling, Patrick Kennedy, Christian McKay, Chris Larkin, Daisy Lewis, Matthew Marsh, James Wilby, Alex Jennings and John Standing..

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.35** Nature's Miracle Orphans.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Shauna Lowry present the show from the Essex coast. Matt travels to Mersea Island and meets a seventh generation oyster fisherman, and learns about the decline of native oysters in the region, while Shauna discovers the role dogs have to play in a conservation effort to protect watervoles. Plus, Adam Henson welcomes a new arrival to his farm, Tom Heap reports on how dogs can be dangerous to livestock, and Nina Wadia reveals her favourite part of the British countryside.

8.00 Call the Midwife. The introduction of the contraceptive pill is welcomed by Dr Turner, but some of his colleagues are less keen on the idea. Patsy tries to help a bargee who wants to give birth among her own community rather than in a maternity ward. Nurse Crane deals with an emergency during a storm, and a familiar face returns to Nonnatus House – but has been changed by her time away.

9.00 The Night Manager. Pine and Burr hatch a plan to get Roper's attention, by faking a criminal reputation for the former soldier. Six months later, the arms dealer's son is kidnapped from his villa.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Highlights of the latest Premier League matches, featuring Manchester United v Arsenal at Old Trafford and Tottenham Hotspur v Swansea City at White Hart Lane.

11.30 Film: The Other Man. (2008) A man tracks down his wife's lover after her death, intending to exact revenge, but instead strikes up an unlikely friendship. Drama, starring Liam Neeson.

12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.05** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **8.05** An Island Parish. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **11.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00 Film:** Apache Territory. (1958) Western, starring Rory Calhoun. **2.10** Great Directors: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.50 Film:** The Philadelphia Story. (1940) Romantic comedy, starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant. **4.40 Film:** Tron. (1982) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jeff Bridges.

6.10 Flog It! Kate Bateman and Adam Partridge value items in the spa town of Malvern, Worcestershire, including a wooden top toy and some old coins that could be worth thousands of pounds. (R)

7.00 Six Nations Highlights. John Inverdale is joined by Keith Wood, Andy Nicol and Jeremy Guscott to present action from the third round of the 2016 championship, featuring England v Ireland at Twickenham, Wales v France at the Principality Stadium and Italy v Scotland at the Stadio Olimpico.

8.00 Dragons Den: Pitches to Riches. Richard Osman presents a look back at some of the most memorable contestants to appear on the business ideas show, and discovers what success they have enjoyed since making their pitch to the panel. Peter Jones pays a visit to celebrity chef Levi Roots, whose company Reggae Reggae Sauce became a success through a successful appearance on the show, while Deborah Meaden is reunited with Jordan Daykin, the youngest ever contestant to secure the backing of a Dragon, to discover if he has fulfilled his potential as an entrepreneur.

9.00 Let's Play Darts for Sport Relief 2016. Gabby Logan presents the last two quarter finals from the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, pitting Tim Vine against Robbie Savage while Kate Humble takes on Jon Richardson.

10.00 The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story. (R)

10.40 Film: The Reluctant Fundamentalist. (2012) Premiere. Drama, starring Riz Ahmed and Liev Schreiber.

12.40 Film: The Black Balloon. (2008) **2.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.00** Holby City. (R) **4.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.35** The Chase. (R) **3.35 Film:** The Man with the Golden Gun. (1974) James Bond adventure, starring Roger Moore and Christopher Lee.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 Planet's Got Talent. The best and worst clips from the global Got Talent franchise, featuring a performer who can walk on water and a fight performance. Narrated by Warwick Davis. Last in the series.

7.00 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands. Elvina reveals a dark secret about herself to save Beowulf from danger, but the truth puts his feelings for her to the ultimate test.

8.00 Churchill's Secret. Michael Gambon stars as Winston Churchill in this feature-length drama based on Jonathan Smith's novel. In 1953, a nurse (Romola Garai) is summoned to a secret location where she learns she is needed to treat the elderly prime minister, who has suffered a stroke and is not expected to survive. She bears witness as Churchill's family gather by his bedside preparing for the worst, and sees the long-buried tensions between them rising to the surface. Also starring Lindsay Duncan and Tara Fitzgerald.

10.10 ITV News; Weather.

10.25 Perspectives – The Man in the Hat: Rene Magritte with Will Young. (R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 14th round of fixtures.

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35 Film:** Diary of a Wimpy Kid. (2010) Family comedy, starring Zachary Gordon. **3.25** The Simpsons. (R) **3.55** The Simpsons. (R) **4.25** The Simpsons. (R) **4.50** Channel 4 News. **5.10 Film:** Finding Nemo. (2003) Animated adventure, with the voices of Albert Brooks and Ellen DeGeneres.

7.00 The Secret Life of the Zoo. Chester's Penguin Island is home to one of the most enduring love stories in the zoo. At 22, Rud is the oldest on the island, and has been with his partner, Spike, for over 15 years. However, keepers are concerned that Rud's arthritic hip could be affecting his quality of life. Meanwhile, the Sumatran tigers are upgrading to a luxury new enclosure on the other side of the zoo as part of Chester's huge expansion. But they've lived in their home for most of their lives so it's not going to be an easy move. (R)

8.00 The Jump. Celebrities battle it out in winter sport disciplines and two of them face a live ski jump each night to keep their place in the competition. Presented by Davina McCall.

9.00 Film: The Wolverine. (2013) Premiere. The former member of the X-Men is lured out of hiding and travels to Japan, where a dying businessman offers him the chance to give up his immortality for a normal life. He ends up robbed of his superhuman powers by a mysterious scientist and is forced to protect the tycoon's granddaughter from a secret conspiracy's assassins. Superhero adventure spin-off, starring Hugh Jackman and Tao Okamoto.

11.35 Film: Attack the Block. (2011) A student nurse and a teenage gang band together to fight off alien invaders terrorising a south London tower block. Sci-fi comedy thriller, with Jodie Whittaker and John Boyega.

1.05 Embarrassing Bodies. A man suffering from abscesses. (R) **2.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.20** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.10** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.30** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30 Film:** The Reef. (2006) Animated adventure, with the voice of Freddie Prinze Jr. **3.00 Film:** Made of Honor. (2008) Romantic comedy, starring Patrick Dempsey and Michelle Monaghan. **5.00 Film:** Monster-in-Law. (2005) Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Lopez and Jane Fonda.

6.55 Now That's Funny! New series. A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring laugh-out-loud unexpected personal moments now being shared with the world.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Capital One Cup Highlights. Liverpool v Manchester City. Kelly Cates presents action from the final at Wembley Stadium, as the sides battled it out for the first major domestic silverware of the campaign. While the Citizens have fared considerably better than the inconsistent Reds overall in the Premier League this term, Jurgen Klopp's men claimed a stunning 4-1 victory when the clubs met at Etihad Stadium in November.

9.00 Film: Grown Ups. (2010) Five friends reunite for the funeral of their high-school basketball coach. However, when they discover they have all acquired the problems and responsibilities that come with adulthood, they decide to spend a weekend at a lake house in a bid to recapture their childhood. Comedy, with Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Kevin James, David Spade and Rob Schneider.

11.05 Film: The Switch. (2010) Comedy, with Jennifer Aniston.

1.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Holiday Airport: Sun, Sea & Scousers. **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.20** Great Scientists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Jigs & Wigs: The Extreme World of Irish Dancing **7.30** Northern Ballet: 1984 **9.00** Storyville: Bolshoi Babylon **10.25 Film:** Populaire (2012) **12.10** Could We Survive a Mega-Tsunami? **1.10** Timeshift: Crime & Punishment – The Story of Capital Punishment **2.10** Sounds of the Eighties **2.35** Singer-Songwriters at the BBC **3.35** Close

ITV2

11.15 Take Me Out **12.30** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.35 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **3.20 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **5.20** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.50 Film:** Back to the Future Part II (1989) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Meet the Family Guys **10.30 Film:** Shaun of the Dead (2004) **12.30 Film:** Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (2009) **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.55 Wycliffe **1.00** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **2.05** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Barging Round Britain with John Sergeant **9.00** Caroline Quentin: A Passage Through India **10.00** Mrs Biggs **11.00 Film:** Changeling (2008) **1.45 Film:** The Rebel (1961) **3.30** May the Best House Win **5.10** Judge Judy **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.05 Counting Cars **12.00** The Classic Car Show **1.00 Film:** Nevada Smith (1966) **3.40 Film:** Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **6.10 Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Texas Killing Fields (2011) **11.10 Film:** How I Spent My Summer Vacation (2012) **1.00** Ax Men **2.00** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 Couples Come Dine with Me **1.00 Film:** St Trinian's (2007) **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **12.00** Rude Tube **1.10** The Inbetweeners **2.10** The 100 **2.55** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.40** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Battle of the Sexes (1959) **1.00** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **2.45** The Dark Crystal (1982) **4.30** Leap Year (2010) **6.30** Star Trek (2009) **9.00** Avatar (2009) A soldier uses a genetically engineered body to help an alien tribe fight off a corrupt mining corporation. James Cameron's sci-fi adventure, with Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana. **12.10** Double Jeopardy (1999) **2.15** Waltz with Bashir (2008) **4.00** Close

PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Hummingbird, Channel 5, 11pm
A haunted special forces soldier returns to London from Afghanistan and assumes another man's identity, hoping to make a fresh start. He is drawn into the city's criminal underworld, where his skills prove valuable to the highest bidder, and plots revenge against the gangster who killed his girlfriend. Crime thriller, with Jason Statham and Agata Buzek. (2013)

TUESDAY
Abducted, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A man wrongly imprisoned for murder is placed under the authority of a ruthless warden with political aspirations. Desperate to prove his innocence, the inmate escapes and abducts the official's wife. However, the situation takes an unexpected turn when the woman develops feelings for her kidnapper. Thriller, starring Sarah Wynter. (2007)

WEDNESDAY
Hit & Run, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A lawyer is riding high after putting a notorious swindler behind bars, but has to look over her shoulder when a former cop threatens to blackmail her over a skeleton in her closet that could bring her career to an end. Thriller, starring Josie Davis, Sebastian Spence and Garry Chalk. (2015)

Olympus Has Fallen, Thursday, Channel 5, 9pm

THURSDAY
Olympus Has Fallen, Channel 5, 9pm
A secret service operative is dismissed from duty after a tragic accident. As he prepares to leave his assignment, terrorists take control of the White House and hold the president hostage. The agent is trapped in the building, and uses his inside knowledge to rescue the head of state. Action thriller, starring Gerard Butler and Morgan Freeman. (2013)

FRIDAY
The Man with the Golden Gun, ITV, 11.10pm
James Bond's investigation into the death of a world-renowned scientist working on solar technology draws him into a battle of wits with a stealthy assassin, who dispatches his victims with a golden bullet and has the British secret agent next in his sights. Spy adventure, starring Roger Moore. (1974)

The heat is on Davina in blistering new series

She's made fitness DVDs and completed a gruelling 500-mile triathlon for Sport Relief in 2014, but in the first episode of her new series, Davina McCall is taking on an even more extreme sporting challenge and attempting to race a cheetah.

Luckily, she's not expecting to win – instead it's part of an experiment to find out how some extraordinary animals survive in some of planet's most hostile environments.

Over the coming weeks, Davina McCall: Life at the Extreme will see the Long Lost Family presenter travelling to the coldest, deepest and wettest places on Earth, where she will live alongside local people, scientists and the animals themselves.

She begins with a journey to Namibia, one of the hottest countries in the world, where temperatures can reach 50 degrees centigrade, and years can pass without rainfall.

It's here that Davina encounters the cheetah, learning how it deals with the heat as it reaches speeds of up to 70 miles-per-hour.

She discovers that while the predators may be built for speed, they are not quite so impressive when it comes to endurance – if they don't catch their prey in the first 300-metres, they'll simply give up. By contrast, humans can sweat to keep their temperatures down, meaning they can run a marathon in a desert.

To help demonstrate these differences, Davina prepares to race one of the cats. She says: "Obviously I'm not going to be as fast as a cheetah, but I want to compare how the heat affects us both, when we're running…My heart is pounding, I'm quite scared. Maybe this is not such a good idea after all…"

That's not the only nerve-wracking challenge the presenter undertakes, as she later travels to Erindi Game Reserve, spanning 700-square kilometres of Namibia's interior.

Its home to over 10,000 animals, most of which seek refuge in the shade during the hottest hours of the day – but Davina is more concerned with what they get up to at night, as she's going to be camping out in the open with local ranger Henco Bantjes.

Davina says: "Let me assure you, this is not something I'd normally do…I've never camped in the wild before, so I've no idea why Henco thinks I'm going to make it through the night."

It turns out she was right to be anxious as their camp receives a nocturnal visit from a lion. Luckily, the morning finds her in one piece – and ready to take on the stage of her journey, which sees her meeting the San Bushpeople of the Kalahari Desert, who are some of the last hunter-gatherers on the planet.

Davina joins them for a spot of foraging, but the heat soon takes its toll. "After two hours of foraging, I feel like every droplet of water has been sucked from my body… my mouth's so dry, I feel like my top lip's just getting stuck."

But will the presenter find the strength to carry on – or will we discover that the next instalment of the four part series has been renamed Davina McCall: Life at Home on the Sofa?

Davina McCall: Life at the Extreme, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Too Much TV
BBC2, 6.30pm
New series. Magazine show devoted to the small screen, featuring guides to what's on as well as insight, opinions and the chance for viewers to catch watercooler moments they may have missed, with Aled Jones and Sara Cox presenting the first edition. Emma Bunton and Rufus Hound are also among the revolving team of hosts introducing news, reviews and previews of the latest programmes and chatting to celebrity guests, while comedians Funmbi Omotayo and Susan Calman will act as roving reporters. Plus, the team delves into the archives for a selection of TV's greatest moments.

TUESDAY
Back in Time for the Weekend
BBC2, 8pm
The Ashby-Hawkins family enters the 1990s, a decade where new technology starts to dominate their leisure time. Twelve year-old Seth finally gets his hands on a Game Boy and games console, while the arrival of the internet and a mobile phone marks the start of how many spend their spare time now. Steph and Rob try out line-dancing, and fitness star Mr Motivator puts them through their paces. Tommy Walsh and Linda Barker also turn up to help the family give the house and garden a 90s makeover. As ever, Giles Coren is your host

WEDNESDAY
Raised by Wolves
Channel 4, 10pm
New series. The comedy written by Caitlin and Caroline Moran returns. Set on a Wolverhampton council estate, the story is a modern-day reimagining of their childhood. In the first edition, Della turns off the household Wi-Fi to save money, forcing a desperate Germaine to go to the local library, where she has an unexpected romantic encounter with a former enemy. Meanwhile, with Grampy sleeping in her coat cupboard, Della resolves to take a trip to the 'Poor Woman's Ikea' – or a skip – to look for supplies.

Secrets of the Sauna
Channel 4, 10.35pm
Candid documentary offering a glimpse at the secretive world of gay saunas, gaining access to an establishment in Nottingham where men go to meet strangers for sex. The programme meets people from a wide variety of backgrounds who frequent the sauna, from teachers and plumbers to Tory councillors, as well as hearing from the staff who work there, including owners Joe and John, who have been a couple for over 30 years. The programme provides a rarely before seen snapshot of gay culture, in a world where only men are welcome.

Bear Grylls: Mission Survive, Thursday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
Pompeii: New Secrets Revealed with Mary Beard
BBC1, 9pm
The renowned classicist and TV historian explores what life was like 2,000 years ago in Pompeii, one of the world's most extraordinary and iconic archaeological sites. She goes behind the scenes of the Great Pompeii Project, where restoration teams have gradually removed the layers of time and deterioration from the frescoes and mosaics of houses closed to the public for decades, and with the help of point-cloud scanning technology, Pompeii is seen and explained like never before.

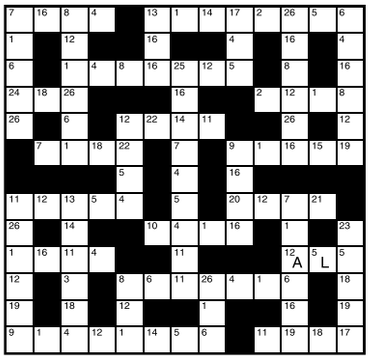
Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
ITV, 9pm
Bear Grylls is no stranger to taking VIPs out into the wild – in December, we saw him head out on a ramble across Alaska with President Barack Obama. Now, he's introducing us to a group of seven celebrities who face a challenging expedition in the South African bush, where they must learn to navigate difficult terrain, build shelters, make fire and eat the food that nature provides. From being suspended by rope from a helicopter to eating mopane worms and navigating through scorched plains, the stars face a range of tough tasks and Bear himself eliminates one of them after each challenge.

FRIDAY
NCIS: New Orleans
Channel 5, 9pm
A blogger who devoted his energies to exposing corruption within government is found dead, having recently cited some Navy Seals as overstepped the mark in their use of force.

BRAIN GYM No.366

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to start you off.

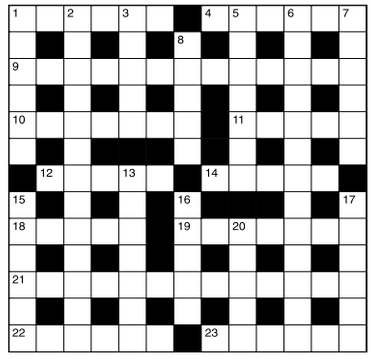


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T	G	R	J	D	E	X	H	O	Z	Y	I	U
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
C	V	L	Q	K	A	S	B	W	N	F	P	M

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Gift bestowed on Bligh's craft (6)
4. Softly scolded for what the gossip did (6)
9. Is willing to take the consequences, as the conductor does (5,3,5)
10. Intent on changing rates round the north-east (7)
11. French name given to present-day wanderer (5)
12. The right current measures for dishonest practices (5)
14. The first of the singers to deal successfully with the range (5)
18. Makes a call for jewellery (5)
19. Makes a tape for some minutes (7)
21. Money regularly available to the ranker (7,6)
22. Wild herd round us stampeded (6)
23. Demure fashions by the first of the tailoresses (6)

Down

1. Strike for a place to eat (6)
2. Indefinite restrictions produce doubts (13)
3. Such buds are sensitive to the consumer (5)
5. Could this describe Marconi? In a way (7)
6. How one with a definite aim acts (2,4,7)
7. Make plain English of French cipher (6)
8. Ashen-faced when we are about to strike (5)
13. The correspondent pays it a long time after an appointment (7)
15. Decent support supplied with some hesitation (6)
16. Short, broken fibre (5)
17. A view of unusual pacts about the East (6)
20. Piece of poetry is hypocrisy and nothing more (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Thin gruel (6)
4. Span (6)
9. Listless (13)
10. Odd (7)
11. Depression (5)
12. Insurgent (5)
14. Storehouse (5)
18. Commerce (5)
19. Fidgety (7)
21. Exuberance (6,7)
22. Signify (6)
23. Dog-house (6)

Down

1. Spatter (6)
2. Imprisonment (13)
3. Memorise (5)
5. Remainder (7)
6. Decay (13)
7. Enrol (6)
8. Vacillate (5)
13. Graceful (7)
15. Thread (6)
16. Flagrant (5)
17. Ship (6)
20. Glow (5)

Sudoku

5	8				4		9	
		6		9				
		9			1			4
	6	4		5		8	3	
7			8		3			1
	9	8		4		6		
6			3			7		9
				1		3		
	1		9				5	2

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	5	8	9	1	4	3	6	7
4	3	9	5	7	6	8	1	2
6	1	7	3	8	2	4	9	5
9	7	3	8	4	1	2	5	6
1	2	4	6	5	9	7	8	3
8	6	5	7	2	3	9	4	1
3	8	1	2	9	5	6	7	4
7	4	6	1	3	8	5	2	9
5	9	2	4	6	7	1	3	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Lose patience; 7 Panic; 8 Trail; 9 Hot; 10 Pointless; 11 Narrow; 12 Scraps; 15 Supporter; 17 Roc; 18 Dandy; 19 On the; 21 Cheer-leaders. Down: 1 Left-hand side; 2 Pan; 3 Tactic; 4 Estate car; 5 Chase; 6 Close secrets; 7 Peter; 10 Prototype; 13 Agree; 14 Stroll; 16 Pinch; 20 Tea. QUICK - Across: 1 Apprehensive; 7 Deter; 8 Arson; 9 Ebb; 10 Segregate; 11 Tiring; 12 Detour; 15 Ceaseless; 17 Dip; 18 Title; 19 Demur; 21 Prescription. Down: 1 Authenticity; 2 Eat; 3 Enrage; 4 Shapeless; 5 Vista; 6 Interruption; 7 Debar; 10 Senseless; 13 Order; 14 Vendor; 16 Alter; 20 Map.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Which author was married from 1965-83 to writer Elizabeth Jane Howard?
2. Who directed the film Babette's Feast?
3. Which explorer led the youth project Operation Drake?
4. When is the feast day of St. Brigid?
5. What nationality was the clown Charlie Cairoli?
6. Who won a Best Actress Oscar for It Happened One Night?
7. Which murderer was murdered in Walpole Prison, Massachusetts, in 1973?
8. Who wrote the songs Camptown Races and Beautiful Dreamer?
9. In which state was evangelist Billy Graham born?
10. Who patented the first sewing machine?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 The Hague; 2 Painting; 3 13; 4 Strait of Messina; 5 Uganda; 6 A goldlike alloy of copper and zinc; 7 Thomas Stamford Raffles; 8 Self-boiling; 9 Portugal; 10 Hong Kong.

Niner: GROUNDSEL

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

628 gives a sailor,
43281 gives a protector,
39578 gives an official.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Final whistle

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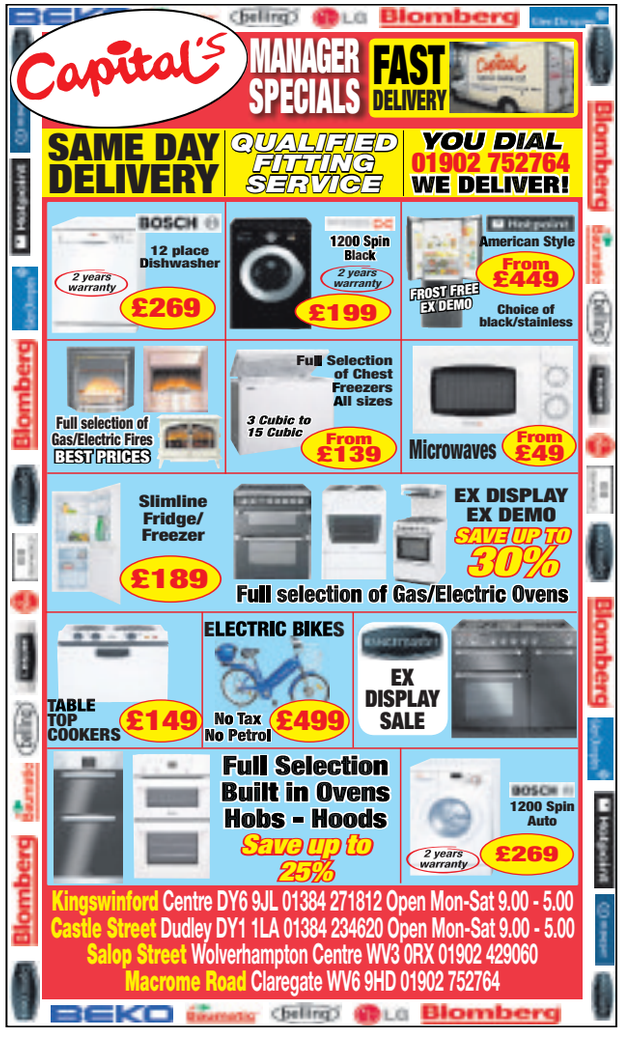

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, February 25, 2016

MS Inspire is a memorable way to experience the wonders of the Rhine and Moselle

Historic hideaway – Reichenstein Castle

Mittlere Bridge in Basel, Switzerland. St Martin's Church can be seen overlooking the houses

Crew on board the ship so friendly, like bar manager Farhan

Set sail for trip of a lifetime and believe me, it's smiles all the way

BAR manager Farhan is juggling three vodka bottles to Lou Bega's Mambo No. 5. There's loud clapping and cheering as he expertly lands one on his forearm.

A hilarious sketch then follows when the maître d' dons a blonde wig to play the part of a receptionist dealing with a guest reluctant to pay their bill.

We're watching a show put on by the crew of MS Inspire and dubbed 'the best show on the Rhine and Moselle' – and this 13-day luxury Tauck voyage is arguably the best cruise on the Rhine and Moselle.

Yes, it's all aboard for the trip of a lifetime that takes in Switzerland, France, Germany, Luxembourg and The Netherlands. Embarkation is at Three Countries Corner in Basel, the spot where France, Germany and Switzerland meet.

By Heather Loat

Basel is Switzerland's third largest city and while not picture postcard a guided walking tour reveals a city steeped in culture and history.

What makes this Tauck cruise so special is the entire crew. Nothing is too much trouble. At capacity the ship accommodates 130 passengers compared to other riverboats of the same size which cater for 190 passengers.

It means you experience a much more intimate atmosphere on a Tauck trip. With a lower overall capacity Tauck is also able to outfit each vessel with a far higher percentage of suites, designed with space and comfort in mind. Ours featured a floor to ceiling balcony window through which we could gaze at turreted castles and gothic churches.

But with so many on shore excursions to places including Heidelberg, Cochem and Germany's oldest city Trier, there's little time for luxuriating.

The fashionable spa town of Baden-Baden, famed for its bathing, is on the itinerary or you can visit the Kurhaus casino described by Marlene Dietrich as 'the most beautiful in the world'.

Quaint

Then meander along quaint, cobbled streets and sample a slice of Black Forest cake named after the region.

Back on board and we are treated to a performance of Alsatian Folkloric dancing. Then we find ourselves linking arms with our fellow passengers and singing eins, zwei, drei, hoopla!

We feast like kings too at Reichenstein Castle, a medieval fortress overlooking the Rhine. The castle is exclusively ours for the evening, to explore before a private dinner in the grounds.

It's a slightly more bumpy ride when I get on a bike at the Hoge Veluwe National Park, near Arnhem, in The Netherlands. We are in the grounds of the visitor centre from where it's a short ride to the Kröller-Müller Museum – which houses the second largest Van Gogh collection in the world.

The excursion to this most fascinating of European cities begins with a visit to the Rijksmuseum where masterpieces by Rembrandt are among treasures on show.

The highlight, however, is a boat trip on the canals which Amsterdam is famed for.

Wine, beer and even Champagne – the drinks flow thanks to unlimited complimentary beverages. All-inclusive means no extras for shore excursions, gratuities or airport transfers. So much to enjoy!

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Chicken Liver Pate
Pork Terrine with apple and red onion chutney

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Tandoori Grilled Salmon
Grilled Spiced Paneer
8oz Rump Steak with all the trimmings
Pork Belly on Mustard Mash

DESSERTS
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Cherry trifle
Strawberry cheesecake
Cheeseboard
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Much improved home boasts five bedrooms

A FIVE-BEDROOMED detached in a highly sought-after area, 32a Woodhall Road, Penn, Wolverhampton has excellent family accommodation.

It is for sale through Sanders Wright & Freeman at £349,000.

Much extended and improved, it includes a large L-shaped living/dining room with feature fireplace, extended rear sitting room with a marble fireplace with sliding patio doors, breakfast room, guest cloakroom, well-equipped kitchen, re-fitted house bathroom and additional guest shower room, driveway and a garage providing off-road parking.

To the rear there is a large mature garden and a summer house.

Contact 01902 575555 or visit www.swfestateagents.co.uk

Smart family house in quiet cul-de-sac

A FAMILY home in Quantock Close, Halesowen, is in a quiet cul-de-sac. It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £299,950.

Having gas central heating and double glazing, it has an entrance hall with ceramic floor tiling and stairs off, a living room with a feature gas fireplace, a dining room with patio doors to the rear garden, a kitchen with modern white units and an integrated electric cooker with a gas hob and extractor.

Bedroom one comes with an en suite shower room, there are three further bedrooms and a bathroom with a bath, shower over, heated towel rail. There is a garage, off-road parking for several cars and a mature rear garden. Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or visit www.hickshadley.com

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1 High St. Stourport on Severn Worcs DY13 8DJ
Tel: **01299 822060** Fax: 01299 827066
email: stourport@phippsandpritchard.co.uk

Spring Auction

6pm Tuesday 15th March 2016
at Hogarths Stone Manor Hotel, Stone, Kidderminster. DY10 4PJ

Galahad Way Stourport DY13 8SQ

TWO high quality 1950's former Police Houses on a large south facing plot in an acutely sought after location off Moorhall Drive - the properties currently inter-connect, reflecting their most recent use as a Charity Day Centre, but would revert to their original forms very easily indeed. Immense further potential, vacant possession upon completion - Freehold. Energy Rating: D

Guide Price £250,000-£300,000

Stanford Bridge Nr Abberley WR6 6SX

A Prime Development Opportunity with grandstand valley views. A sizeable detached stable with FULL Planning Permission for conversion. The scheme was approved by Malvern Hills District Council on 30 April, 2014 under application number 14/00236/FUL and provides for a substantial single storey layout offering a gross internal area of 100sq.m or 1,076 sq.ft. Externally there is also plenty of amenity and ample parking provision. Worcester & Ludlow each about 15 miles distant. Freehold.

Guide Price £125,000-£175,000

Farm Road Stourport DY13 9DQ

TWO PURPOSE BUILT MODERN FLATS built approximately 12 years ago - the properties are to be sold together as one freehold lot and have been producing an attractive combined gross rental income of £10,800 per annum. 43A will have the benefit of vacant possession and 43B is currently let at £500 per calendar month. 43A - a one-bedroom ground floor garden flat. 43B - a two-bedroom duplex flat with garden plus fine rear views over the Stour Valley. Energy Ratings: No. 43a: D / No. 43b: C

Guide Price £100,000-£120,000

Impressive house has a self-contained annex

THIS home is a substantial, four-bedroomed detached family home with a self-contained annexe.

The Lee Shaw Partnership is inviting offers of £450,000 for the property at Mount Pleasant, Kingswinford. In a prime position off Cot Lane, it has a long block-paved driveway. The house has an entrance hall, guest WC, re-fitted kitchen in cream Shaker-style with an oven and hob, utility, large dining/sitting room extension with a vaulted ceiling, exposed beams and roof windows, huge master bedroom, three further bedrooms (one en suite) and re-fitted house bathroom. The self-contained annex is linked to the main property, has a lobby, hall, a lounge/dining room, breakfast kitchen, utility, shower room and double bedroom. There is a double garage and rear garden with a summerhouse.

Contact (01384) 287622 or visit www.leeshaw.com website.

Victorian semi has conversion potential

A VICTORIAN semi-detached property with a garage and driveway in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge, at 65 Clifton Street, has lots of potential to create new rooms.

A spacious two-bedroomed property, it could easily be converted into a three bedroom home, having potential for a fantastic loft conversion and a party room or cellar.

It is for sale through The Property Shop at £279,950 and includes an entrance hall, dining room, lounge, lobby/utility, and kitchen with breakfast area. There are two large bedrooms, a cellar and a loft space.

The rear garden is long and private and across the road from the property is a garage with a driveway.

For further information contact The Property Shop on (01384) 444645 or visit the website at www.thepropertyshop.co.uk

Property

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An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Retailers attend Vauxhall/ Opel Group top 100 event

Family-run Vauxhall dealerships, Dudley Motor Company, Stourbridge Motor House, Halesowen Motor House and T Wall Garages were part of a 24-strong delegation of Vauxhall retailers selected to join 100 of the most successful dealers across Opel Europe at a congress held at its headquarters in Rüsselsheim, Germany.

Managing director, Mr Stuart Grieveson, said: "This is a great achievement and a proud moment. We have a strong workforce with an excellent work ethic, and I'm delighted that we have been nominated in the Top 100 dealers in Europe. Our dealerships have proved successful through everyone working as a team, so that each and every customer gains the best possible service on each and every occasion. We would like to thank our many customers for their incredible loyalty and never forget that they have a choice."

The parent company, Worcester Carsales, was founded by Mr Derrick Grieveson in Worcester in 1953. Ten years later, in 1963, the first dealership moved across to a new site on Hylton Road, Worcester. In 1973, the founder's son, Stuart Grieveson, joined the family-owned company, and today, he is managing director.

Over the last 60 years, the family-run Worcester Carsales has seen three generations of the Grieveson family enjoy working for the firm, and to date, Mr Grieveson's grandchildren work within the group.

For more information about the Vauxhall range or any service requirements please contact:

Dudley Motor Company, Trindle Road, Dudley DY2 7AZ. Tel: 01384 454100 www.dudleymotorco.co.uk

T Wall Vauxhall, High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford DY6 8XB. Tel: 01384 288333 www.twall.co.uk

Stourbridge Motor House, High Street, Amblecote, Stourbridge DY8 4DG. Tel: 01384 447970 or visit www.stourbridgemotorhouse.co.uk

Halesowen Motor House, Dudley Road, Halesowen B63 3NH Tel: 0121 503 0001 www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk

Pictured: The new sports car that Opel will debut at the Geneva Motor-show next week.

Halesowen Autos

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Style and space for the all-new Kia Optima

The all-new Kia Optima Sportswagon, Kia's first ever D-segment tourer, will make its global premiere at the 2016 Geneva Motor Show next week.

Inspired by the 2015 Sportspace concept – shown for the first time at the 2015 Geneva Motor Show – the Optima Sportswagon offers the striking exterior design and high quality interior of the 2016 Optima saloon, with the added practicality and appeal of a tourer bodystyle.

Michael Cole, chief operating officer, Kia Motors Europe, commented: "The Optima has come to define Kia globally, and is credited with kick-starting the brand's design-led transformation. The Sportspace concept from 2015 was a clear intention of where we wanted to take the Optima next, and the Sportswagon adds an extra level of style and practicality to the well-received saloon."

Cole added: "This is an important product for Kia in Europe, and it will increase our presence in this hugely important segment. In Europe, two thirds of all sales in the D-segment, and three quarters of all fleet sales in this class, are made up of tourers, so the Optima Sportswagon will play a critical role in attracting new private and corporate buyers to the brand. This is an important conquest product for Kia."

The Optima Sportswagon will be available with a choice of efficient and responsive petrol and diesel powertrains, including a high-powered GT model. The Optima Sportswagon is equipped with a range of innovative safety assistance and infotainment features, ensuring maximum occupant safety, comfort and enjoyment.

A thoroughly practical vehicle for everyday use, the Optima Sportswagon has a long, lean and dynamic profile. The Sportswagon retains the same width (1,860 mm) and length (4,855 mm) as the saloon, and grows by 5 mm in height (to 1,470 mm) to accommodate the expanded boot.

The new Optima Sportswagon features the same sharp lines and smooth bodywork that has come to define the latest Kia models. While the front of the car remains the same as the Optima saloon, its strong, rising shoulder and gently sloping, swept-back cabin continue for longer to produce its distinctive tourer body shape.

The overhang at the rear adds greater visual volume to the back of the vehicle, though this extra mass is disguised elegantly by the raked rear window and tapering roofline, giving the Sportswagon a genuinely athletic stance in a typically conservative segment.

At the rear of the car, wide LED tail lamps wrap around the corners of the bodywork. The rear bumper houses a single oval exhaust and features an integrated air diffuser, for a sporty finish.

The wide dashboard, designed along a horizontal plane, helps to create a genuine sense of spaciousness and modernity, with the same high material quality and design that characterises the interior of the Optima saloon. For a quality ambience, the cabin is finished with a high proportion of soft-touch materials, cloth and leather trim in natural tones, and tasteful metallic accents. High levels of soundproofing reduce driver fatigue during long journeys and when travelling over broken surfaces.

Innovative

The same technologies that make the Optima saloon one of the most innovative cars in the D-segment are featured in the Optima Sportswagon – a range of on-board technologies to improve usability, comfort and convenience. It is equipped with Kia's latest audio-visual navigation (AVN) system, available with 7.0- or 8.0-inch touchscreen infotainment – the latter when specified with the satellite navigation system. DAB digital radio, which is available across a number of European markets, is fully supported with Kia's AVN.

The Optima Sportswagon will additionally be among first Kia models to feature Android Auto™, designed to work with Android phones running 5.0 (Lollipop) or higher, and Apple CarPlay™ for iPhone 5 or newer. Both systems feature voice control and allow the driver to keep their hands on the wheel and eyes on the road ahead at all times.

The Sportswagon is the most practical Optima ever, with generous cargo capacity and a range of innovative and useful features to ensure the best possible use of storage space. It also offers a high level of safety from its lightweight, high-strength body and high levels of passive and active safety. Kia's engineers have targeted a five-star Euro NCAP safety rating throughout the Optima Sportswagon's development programme. The Optima saloon recently scored the maximum five-star rating from the independent safety organisation.

The Kia Optima Sportswagon is expected to be a strong performer in Euro NCAP's increasingly important Safety Assist category thanks to its suite of new active safety technologies designed to avoid or mitigate the effects of a collision.

The car will be available with a range of Euro 6-compliant petrol and diesel engines when it goes on sale across Europe. The Optima Sportswagon offers the choice of either a

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Stylish and versatile – new Volvo V90 estate

The eagerly awaited Volvo V90 has been revealed in Stockholm, Sweden. The stylish and versatile V90 is the latest in the premium car maker's top-of-the-line 90 series, sitting alongside the award-winning XC90 SUV and the recently launched S90 premium saloon.

Building on Volvo Cars' indisputable heritage in the estate segment, which began more than 60 years ago with the Volvo Duett, the new V90 takes the premium estate a clear step forward in terms of aesthetics, materials and finish, while living up to the ultimately practical nature of any true estate.

"We have a very strong position in the estate segment," said Håkan Samuelsson, president and chief executive of Volvo Cars. "In many people's minds we are known as the definitive estate brand.

"While the Volvo brand today stands for more than estates, we are proud to carry forward this rich heritage with the V90."

The new V90 is the third car unveiled in Volvo's top-of-the-line 90 series, all of which are built on the company's specially designed and fully modular Scalable Product Architecture (SPA), which has opened up a range of new opportunities in terms of how Volvos can be designed, built and equipped.

Functional

"The modern premium estate is all about the intriguing combination of a luxurious experience with the functional origins of the estate silhouette. The sophisticated ambience of our new Volvo interiors is combined with a great cargo space, providing the right kind of functionality – whether through connectivity or cargo and storage solutions," said Thomas Ingenlath, senior vice president for design at Volvo Cars.

The new V90 delivers cutting-edge pilot assist semi-autonomous drive technology, the most advanced standard safety package on the market, including large animal detection and run-off road mitigation, and class-leading connectivity, including smartphone integration with Apple CarPlay.

Volvo Cars has also worked tirelessly on driving dynamics in the new model, to deliver a totally new and refined driving experience characterised by a sense of engaging control and predictability.

"We have a very strong offer in the V90. Our PowerPulse technology is designed to deliver a distinct performance boost to our diesel engine, while the T8 Twin Engine petrol plug-in hybrid will deliver around 410 hp and a pure electric range of around 31 miles," said Dr Peter Mertens, senior sice president of research and development at Volvo Cars.

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religious notices

christadelphian

LESSONS FROM BIBLE CHARACTERS Jesus. February 28, at 6pm, The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford, Or write to The Dawn (ref:KCE) 5 Station Road, Carlton, Notts. NG4 3AT for free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

1 Family

elderly & disabled

b]MOBILITY SCOOTER Very good condition. Fits easily in a car boot. Ideal for shopping and holidays. New batteries. Can deliver.
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07905 770683.

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WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

caravans / motorhomes

COACHMAN OASIS 1995 5 berth, single axle, very good condition, full awning and porch awning. Everything inc to use straight away. £1,350. o.n.o. 07931 288273.

STATIC CARAVAN
2011 Willerby Westmoreland 6 Berth. Cenral Heating & Double Glazed. Immaculate throughout, hardly used. Buyer to remove from site.
£12,000 ono
07944 984486

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caravans wanted

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Also motorhomes wanted.
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jumble sales / fetes

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sports & leisure

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3 Home & Services

what's on

antique fairs

PENKRIDGE ANTIQUES & Collectors Market, Thursday 3rd March 9AM -3PM. Penkridge Market, ST19 5AP. Free entrance, Free parking. Tel 07947271947

SHENSTON ANTIQUES & Collectors Fair, Sunday 6th March. 10am -3pm. Barns Road, Shenstone WS14 0LT. £1 Entrance. Free parking. Tel 07947271947

furniture

LUXURY CANE CONSERVATORY SUITE
Unused, 2015 design, 2 seater, 2 armchairs, excellent quality chenille cushions, still wrapped, can deliver, cost £1,495.
Accept £495.
0796 8731896.

OAK DINING SET
Fantastic quality and condition. From William & Sons. Cost £1,500. 6 chairs with rattan seats. 89.5cmx199cm.
£295 ono
01384 392157

THREE PIECE suit, 3 seater, 1 chair, 1 recliner, light brown material, 14 months old, £250 ono. 01902 688089. 07964 255467,

TWO ARM CHAIRS Three wardrobes, free, must collect themselves . 07446 233883.

TWO ARMCHAIRS, three wardrobes, free, must collect themselves. 07446 233883.

TWO SEATER 3 seater and pouffe, hardly used, cream leather, excellent condition. Only £400. 07471 682889 or 01902 256199.

household appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER in excellent condition, £85, can deliver. 07464 026970.

items wanted

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy- big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

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BRITISH COINS AND MEDALS wanted by private collector. Please contact 01902 676540.

FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES
Tickets and other sports memorabilia.
Top prices paid for the right item.
Call Paul on 01543 251743.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES WANTED also any old Crash magazines wanted. Please call 01902 892918.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection.
All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days.
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07850 330251

items for sale

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items for sale

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BARREL LOG burner, all accessories, 11.8kw, £180 ono. 01902 495079.

MODEL ENGINEERS workshop items for sale, Miller, Lathe, plus extras, including part built Loco. £2,050. No dealers. 01384 637418.

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fencing

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GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

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Call Don: 07749 941319

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40 years experience
07966 281957

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skip hire

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

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NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

ENGLISH SPRINGER spaniel puppy bitch, KC reg, microchipped, fully inoculated, parents DNA tested. 01630 638157.

FREE TO GOOD HOME 12 year old Border Collie, outdoor dog. Call After 1pm 07500 569466.

JEFFRY'S DOG WALKING/sitting service, W-ton. Fully insured/reg. Senior Citizen rates. 07974 913703

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COCO 7yr choc/white collie type boy
ARCHIE 9mth border Collie
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CHOP 2.5yr chunky white lovely staffie boy
SALLY 6yr choc/white border collie
NELLIE pretty black/white border collie 10 years
BECKY 4yr collie type short haired black,
JESS 5yr blk/wte border collie
MEG 1yr pretty small collie
FLOSS 1yr Border Collie, small pretty
LAURA 5yr tri colour collie.
01588 676106
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

RAGDOLL KITTENS
Companion breed, permanent homes only, vaccinated, microchipped and house trained and wormed.
£400 and £250.
07436 002565.

RED FRONTED Golden Turks and Mutation Splendids for sale from £15 each. Telford 07807 050340.

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Currently still living in Family home, unfortunately due to change in Family circumstances the owner is unable to give it the time it needs. Looking for a new forever home for this typical Staffy.
Call Martin on
01384 241034.

DOG SAMARITANS

TWO MALE adult neutered cats looking for a permanent home together, House cats. 07847 360784.

YORKSHIRE TERRIER: Lucy, 3 yrs old. Sadly need to rehome due to house move. £50. 07951 664184.

vets

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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commercial premises sale / let

BUNGALOW / OFFICE / YARD, two car units, on main road, £260,000. May split. 07836 780190.

produce

HAYLAGE,quality first cut, Meadow, Square bales. approx 350kg. Triple wrapped. 07799 840370.

6 Property

accommodation to let

A TWO BED FLAT off Tettenhall Rd, CH, DG. Off road parking, £115.50 pw 01902 340073 / 07770 660636.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

DUDLEY AREA
Nice One-Bed Flat To Let.
CH, fitted kitchen.
£110pwk.
Including Gas, Electric, Council tax and Water.
No Pets / DSS.
Telephone 07803 890908.

DUDLEY FURNISHED Bedsit, own bath/kitchen. £65-£90 p/w. Mature DSS considered. 07550 002549.

THREE BED detached house with garage. Wednesfield, near New Cross. £520pcm. 07828 715552

THREE LARGE BEDROOM House, Bilston, CH, DG, garage, very clean. £550pcm. 07886 781724.

houses for sale

TWO BED HOUSE

50% share for sale with Bromford Housing.

Ideal first time buyer.

Quiet location in Pendeford.

£63,000.

07453 489002.

overseas property

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properties wanted

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www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

7 Jobs

employment wanted

DRIVER very experienced, 7.5 tonne licence, van, lorry, seeks any work, full, part time or casual, CPC, any trade. 01922 512935.

full time - general

EXPERIENCED SHED MAKER required full time. Stourbridge area. Call 01384 263192.

part time - general

DOG GROOMER (Experienced) for Meadowcroft Kennels nr Stourbridge/Bromsgrove, 3/4 days pw, no training given.Tel 07788 418331

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

FORD FIESTA ZETEC, 2014, 1,060 miles, FSH, 1 owner, 998cc, Blue. Excellent condition. Burntwood. £8,995. o.n.o. 01543 275913.

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We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL 01902 317878

HONDA CIVIC, 2008, 56,000 miles, grey, ES I-VTEC, excellent condition, MoT, fsh, e/w, a/c, CD player. £4,195. 07891 284477.

HONDA CIVIC Type S, 2007, 60,000 miles, black, excellent condition, ring for details. £4,600 ono 07999 868386

HYUNDAI I10 1.2 ACTIVE
63 reg, phantom black, 19,000 miles, FSH, Active level extras includes air con, plus parking sensors, balance of 5 year warranty, £20 road tax, owned from new, very good conditon, private sale.
£4,750.
01952 728107.

HYUNDAI I10
62 reg, 13,800 miles, automatic, fsh, MoT Sept, 2 lady owners, rear parking sensor, grey, e/w, e/m, air con, central locking, pas, A/B, CD, 2 keys.
£5,400.
01384 291641.

LAND ROVER Discovery TD5 GS, 53 plate, 82,000 miles, Mot, one owner from new, £5,500 ono. 07974 230499.

LEXUS 400h 2007, 62k, silver, automatic, Lexus FSH, MoT January 2017, immaculate condition. £11,500. 07906 724484.

MAZDA MX5 1600 CONVERTIBLE, 04 reg, 64,000 miles only, good condition, MoT, £2,795. Telephone 07864 842076.

MINI COOPER CONVERTIBLE
2004, 71,942 miles, red, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT, Chilli pack, alloys, wind deflector.
£4,800 ono.
07840 118706.

MINI COOPER S 2008, 125k, FSH, MoT, Blue, half leather, fully loaded, very clean, £3,995. 07596 439450.

PEUGEOT 407 56 reg, silver, good condition, MoT January, Diesel Estate, glass roof, tow bar. £2,200. 01902 862198.

RENAULT MEGANE, 2008, 52,000 miles, black, abs, air con, fsh, MoT, alloys. 4 new brake pads and discs. 3 card keys. £2,200 ono. 07584 798484.

TOYOTA YARIS TSPIRIT
2011, 31,964 miles, grey, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys, stereo, navigation system.
£5,250 ono.
07815 776523.

VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN
1.6 petrol, 2006, 5-dr, half leather interior, 12 months Mot, FSH, champagne gold, 93,000 miles, very clean and reliable.
£1,990.
07933 332936.

VW FOX 09, 53,000 miles, 12 months MoT, immaculate, in yellow, lady owner, £2,495 ovno. 01384 565140 or 07761 091577.

X TYPE JAGUAR
53 reg., 2.0, manual, silver, MoT September 2016, one previous OAP owner, genuine 37,600 miles, full cream leather, two keys, service history, AC, CL, etc., beautiful condition,
£2,950.
01902 620909.

cars under £1500

FIAT PANDA ACTIVE, 2007, 4Dr, 1100cc, long MoT, recent tyres and exhaust, £895. 07950 398750.

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMW 118 SE T reg, FSH, AC, alloys, heated seats, 93,000 miles, metallic blue, must be seen. £950 ono. 01746 781718.

CHEVROLET LACETTI, January 2008, 5 door, silver, 46,552 miles, 8 months MoT, £995 ono. 07854 938883 or 07398 991971.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2 04 reg, 77k miles only, full MoT, immaculate condition throughout, lady owner, £825. 07732 475512.

FORD ESCORT 1997, 88,000 miles, needs TLC or project. £225 ono. 07496 957676.

FORD FIESTA 1.6 TDCi, 06 reg, silver 3dr, 10 months MoT, excellent condition, £1,295. 07498 131071.

FORD FOCUS 1.8 Ghia, diesel, 52 reg, long MoT, FSH, good condition. £900 ono. 07903 177567.

FORD FOCUS 2.0GHIA 56reg 74,000 Miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, vgc air con, long MoT, 5 door. £1,499. 07879 403302.

FORD MONDEO 2 litre LX 02, A/C, CD, alloys, good condition, MoT June 2016, serviced, 2 owners, 49k miles. £999 ovno. 07887 593617.

KIA RIO LX, 2001, 108,000 miles, silver, MoOT till Dec 2016, 1343cc, some body work damage, £250 ono. 01902 741724.

PEUGEOT 106 Independent, 2003, 72,000 miles, MoT, lady owner, good condition. £500. 01902 651169.

PEUGEOT 307 1.6 DIESEL HDi. 2005, 5-dr, Mot April, Drives well. £695. o.n.o. Wolverhampton 07939 797979

PEUGOET 307S. 2007, 74k, Black. FSH. Excellent condition. New Shape. £1,500. o.n.o. Telephone 07913 981460

RENAULT CLIO 1.2, 54 plate, 10 months MoT, alloy wheels, very good condition. £500 ono. 0121 530 9041.

SUZUKI IGNIS 1.3, 52 reg, 5dr, full MoT, drives like new, very low mileage, black, very clean car, £975. Call 07540 474922.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

LAND ROVER DEFENDER 110 TD5, 2003, 115,000 miles, MoT, one owner, very clean, £6,000. Telephone 07768 841443.

driving tuition

Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
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scrap vehicles

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

CAROL ANN HARDY (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Wordsley Hall Care Home Mill Street Wordsley Stourbridge DY8 5SX, who died on 07/12/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Lawyers on or before 06/05/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
GUARDIAN WILLS
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Swindon Dudley DY3 4NT T464868

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLES 13 AND 36 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015

Proposed development at 1 Alwen Street, Wordsley, Stourbridge.

I give notice that Mr D Oakley having applied to the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council to erect a dormer bungalow is appealing to the Secretary of State against the decision of the Council.

Any owner of the land* or tenant** who wishes to make representations about this appeal should write to: The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol BS1 6PN by 20th March 2016.

If you decide to make representations you should make it clear that you are an owner of the appeal site or tenant of an agricultural holding on the site and you should give the site address.

* ''owner'' means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years, or in the case of development consisting of the winning or working of minerals, a person entitled to an interest in a mineral in the land (other than oil, gas, coal, gold or silver).

** ''tenant'' means a tenant of an agricultural holder any part of which is comprised in the land.

Signed Mr R C Brock on behalf of Mr D Oakley

Date 16/02/2016

10 Personals

personal

AT MANYANA Gentlemans Club, 5* customer rated-Mon-Fri 10-9pm. Sat-Sun: 10-11pm. 0121 472 7281.

GENTLEMAN 5FT 5
74 years, wishes to meet lady 50-74 for friendship, possible relationship.
Photo appreciated.
(Returned).
Box Number P20238 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

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Single Women

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46YR old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ **Text only to Mailbox: 5404865**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673**

TRISH, 45, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421137**

SUE, 38yrs, passionate, broadminded and feisty seeks discreet fun with 'Mr Wrong' **Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 413007**

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, WLTM tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421135**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715**

ANGELA, 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421115**

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box: 420237**

MARGARET 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, new to area and looking to start a new life, WLTM child friendly male, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399**

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127**

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. **Tel: 0906 515 3038 Box: 407953**

HONEST sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTM child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111**

I'M Chloe, 33yrs old, sensual blonde lady with fabulous figure, workaholic, seeking new circle of men for casual fun. Looks/age/status unimportant must be fun and openminded. **Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 420261**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

ROSIE, 43yrs, bored and lonely, I don't get out much but would like to meet a nice chap, married or single, fun only pls. **Text only Box 4078225**

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791**

JENNI, hairdresser, brunette, caring and fun. WLTM chap any age, must be discreet with car, I have a nice home to meet in. **Text only Box: 4139156**

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420729**

KAREN, curvy brunette, 42yrs loves men of all ages and sizes but must make me laugh .I am married with open marriage. **Text only Box: 4020257**

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599**

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269**

48 year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839**

FEMALE, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. **Text only to mailbox: 5392585**

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757**

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420715**

SUE, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, slim attractive blonde, varied interests and solvent, WLTM honest male of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420685**

CHRIS, 67, brunette, cuddly, WLTM caring, kind gentleman, for days out, meals out, walks etc and for just being together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420667**

LILY, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. **Text only mailbox no: 5372466**

TRISH, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601**

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420563**

CHRIS, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420491**

SALLY, 46, slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTM similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420475**

LOUISE, 47, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420445**

ALEXA 49 - slim, attractive, long-haired music loving female, with many interests including dining out, the arts, photography WLTM similar male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5345662**

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359**

ANN,38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTM similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169**

SARAH, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTM date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420207**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420175**

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTM very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701**

FEMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545**

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073**

MAGGIE, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTM kind, sincere chappie to share coffee and a chat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5310040**

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420043**

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796**

FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003**

FEMALE, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy brunette. Discretion guaranteed. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5079311**

MARY, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster, loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTM a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419883**

LOU, 45, lives in Shrewsbury, WLTM a lady between 42-49 with blue eyes, must be kind, caring and funny to mend my broken heart, someone who likes to curl up on the sofa for cozy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419855**

FREYA 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851**

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839**

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419821**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may to lead to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695**

LADY Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-58) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4550237**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384**

CHARLENE, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597**

JOANNA, 36, petite, auburn haired female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595**

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTM male 45-65yrs for fun meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419579**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417**

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211**

CURVY, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring, kind, shy, likes walks, cooking WLTM tactile male farmer for LTR. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5067001**

FEMALE medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

WIDOW 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417**

FEMALE 50's, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871**

BLUE eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117**

CAROL Ann, sensitive slim brunette very romantic seeks tall handsome male for fun, friendship and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419385**

KIRSTEN, 36, attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded decent male for fun/friendship, 40-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419383**

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

DIVORCED female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419219**

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211**

JOYCE, affectionate sensitive widow, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male for lots of TLC. Looks unimportant, it's what's in the heart that matters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419143**

DEBBIE, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075**

JULES, sensitive tactile, curvy brunette, hopeless romantic, seeks tall, loving male for fun, friendship and possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419033**

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845**

HEATHER, well travelled solvent brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419031**

PAULINE, 49yrs, very attractive, curvy divorcee, affectionate and fun, seeks laid back, sincere male for an uncomplicated, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418925**

LADY young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4881572**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609**

Single Men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419829**

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809**

MALE, 59, 5ft2, average build, looking for a genuine, caring lady, 55-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421089**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old male, slim, dark hair, likes music, bike rides and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

GRAHAM, 50s, 5ft10, blue eyes, very smart, OHAC, solvent, smoker, WLTM a very feminine, sensual, high heels lady, 36-52, for romantic evenings out and holidays, South Cheshire, Staffs, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421103**

CARING male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 239148**

MALE 63, N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

GENUINE male, 58, OHAC, looking for fun lady for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601**

PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991**

MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709**

MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875**

WALSALL male looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873**

STEVE 58 yrs, 6ft, average build, seeking woman for NSA mutual pleasure, marital status unimportant. **Text only to mailbox: 5400701**

YOUNG at heart lonely 55yr old male, 5ft 10, medium build, n/s, GSOH, loyal, looking for a female for adult fun time, possible LTR. **Text only to mailbox: 5321154**

ATTRACTIVE male, 54, seeks attractive female for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407915**

MARK, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WLTM a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841**

MALE, 63, caring, easygoing, N/S seeks female 50-70 for friendship and romance. Looks unimportant. Likes occasional drink, eating in/out, cinema and driving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893**

STEVEN, 39, caring and clean, looking for female for fun, laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420861**

MALE, 46, slim, WLTM a lady to settle me down, if that's you please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420853**

62yr old professional male seeks female 55-70, curvy and feminine, for fun, laughter and relationship. **Text only to mailbox: 4435871**

TREVOR 45, likes cinema, going out, some quiet nights in and looking for someone with similar interests. **Text only to mailbox: 5392042**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

COLIN 48, loving, kind, seeks loving kind caring cuddly lady 48 to 54 for LTR, love and romance. **Text only to mailbox: 5308886**

MALE 51, seeks lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313191**

MALE 55, stocky, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407741**

MALE 57, seeking female, any age/looks for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416779**

TOBY, looking for a responsible lady, 30-50, sensible with money, loving, passionate, romantic, single mum of one welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420813**

MALE, 59, 5ft2, average build, seeks genuine, caring, lady, 55-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420721**

JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267**

HANDSOME, attractive, fit, Indian, professional trucker, 38, WLTM attractive, honest, caring lady/mum, 31-45 for LTR. Colour unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 219790**

ATTRACTIVE male 56 seeks dom female 40 to 70 for close adult fun, any status or size. **Text only to mailbox: 4347071**

MATURE male, 6ft, slim, fit, clean and smart, residing in central Birmingham, seeks slimish female for fun times. **Text only to mailbox: 5383053**

MAN 55yrs, 6ft med build, single, looking for a special lady to share no strings fun and good times Age/status unimportant. **Text only to mailbox: 5381487**

KALU 26 years old single dark/black good looking man looking for a good-looking women for sexy fun. **Text only to mailbox: 5383533**

ATTRACTIVE British Indian male, 38, seeks slim, attractive, caring female for friendship, hopefully LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 227154**

ASIAN male, 38, good looking, fit, loving, caring, GSOH, WLTM Asian female, 40-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 235383**

SEXY Indian male, 40, dark hair/eyes, fit, seeks fit, sporty, sexy, romantic female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 301791**

HANDSOME guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752**

HANDSOME Indian male, 41, tactile, romantic, likes meals out, days out, walks, nights in, seeks sensitive, intelligent Indian female, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 322561**

FIT, handsome, Indian male, 40, GSOH, seeks Asian lady, 33-43 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 365160**

ATTRACTIVE professional, Asian male, 43, kind, caring, likes travel, romance, dining, seeks attractive lady, 35-50 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 370823**

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239**

SLIM attractive man WLTM caring lady, 40-58, for friendship, reply and claim free hug. **Text only mailbox no: 4172082**

BLACK male early 40's, slim, looking for casual adult weekend fun with broadminded, easy going discreet female. **Text only mailbox no: 4656899**

CHRIS, male, 47, single, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks female between 25 and 45 for fun and maybe more. Please get in touch. **Text only mailbox no: 5352046**

COLIN 48, kind, caring, loving, seeks kind, caring, loving, cuddly large lady, 40 to 55 for LTR. **Text only mailbox no: 5308886**

45 year old male WLTM lady friend 35 to 55 who likes to enjoy life. **Text only mailbox no: 4215562**

MALE, five foot ten, stocky build, hazel eyes, just had heart broken, WLTM 40+ female for rendezvous and romantic nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420543**

MALE, 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, attractive, enjoys outdoors, mountain biking, walking, countryside, cinema, days out, seeks genuine, loving female, 29-37, for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420645**

MALE, tall, slim, health professional, honest, easy going, seeks soulmate 45-60 for happy times and maybe romance. Derby area. **Text only to mailbox no: 5356854**

JOHN, 68, six foot three, salt and pepper hair, n/s, divorced, own business, WLTM a long-term partner to travel and enjoy the good things in life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420433**

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BI-CURIOUS 45 years old, slim and good looking, looking for younger bi-curious guy for discreet fun. **Text only to Mailbox: 4917435**

57YR old male, slim, fit, seeks guy, 30-45 for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309951**

BLACK male seeking black male aged 25 to 30, for discreet adult fun, maybe more. **Text only to Mailbox: 5409036**

SLIM late 50's male, seeks gay/bi/CD, slim-medium build, 25-42 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 336329**

BI curious male, slim, fit, looking for weekdays fun, looking for someone to show me the ropes, 45 to 65. **Text only mailbox no: 5378837**

DIVORCED male, young 50, own home/business, seeking Asian or East European male 18-25, I'm a generous guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420537**

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LONELY mother seeks female friends for enlivening/enlightening coffee chats, likes countryside animals etc. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4860241**

ATTRACTIVE full figure bi lady 58 seeks female of similar age for fun times. Cotswold area. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4636475**

36YR attractive black curvy female seeking boyish female local for relationship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4483526**

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Grahm Hodson, left, and Mike Ball are calling time on their long partnership

Kick off – Mike Ball, back right, at Under 14s clash on the league's first weekend with MP Dennis Turner, players and officials

Ready for final whistle – unsung heroes in a league of their own

MIDLANDS football has thrown up some great double acts down the years.

Dougan and Richards, Bull and Mutch, Roberston and Wile, Shaw and Withe have all grabbed the headlines for their deeds in the colours of Wolves, Albion and Villa.

And further down the footballing pyramid, there is a partnership that has helped bring the beautiful game to thousands of Black Country youngsters. Hodson and Ball may not be household names but they have blazed a successful trail at grassroots level.

Chairman Graham Hodson and vice-chairman Mike Ball are the men who brought the Bilston Youth Partnership League onto the local football landscape and few people can argue that it's not been a huge success.

Confident

But all good things must come to an end and the duo are set to hang their boots up at the end of the current season.

The league will go on, and both are confident it will continue to prosper under fresh new leadership.

Hodson and Ball first muted the idea of creating a league for Wolverhampton and the surrounding area early in 1997.

A few scrapes with Stourbridge League officials provided the straight-talking Hodson with the motivation to get things moving with Ball a willing partner.

"We used to run Springvale in Stourbridge League and we had a few run-ins with the league and didn't like some of the things they did," recalls 58-year-old Hodson.

"I thought we could do better, so we started our own league.

"It took about 18 months preparation to get it up and running and it was 1998 when we actually kicked off. And looking back, I don't think we have done too badly."

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Nick Elwell

"I thought we could do better, so we started our own league. Looking back, I don't think we have done too badly."

Before the Bilston Partnership Youth Football League came into existence, Wolverhampton last boasted a junior league way back in 1980, when the Wolverhampton Youth Service League folded due to a lack of numbers.

Various attempts had been made to create a league but one by one they all fell by the wayside. Hodson and Ball were determined that wouldn't be the case.

"There was a lot of interest or perhaps that should be more curiosity rather than interest," continued Hodson.

"We had a meeting with the county FA and Earl Laird who was at Bilston College at the time – that was where the partnership came in.

"They were very supportive and once we got the structure we started advertising in the media.

"We called a meeting at the Springvale club and I think we had about 300 teams turn up. Everyone wanted to know how we were going to operate and what we would do differently.

"Out of those 300 teams that came to that meeting we had 67 teams sign up for the first season.

"But everyone one of those 67 teams wanted the league to work,which was great for us." And while the duo felt the other leagues around the area were waiting for the concept to fall flat on its face, the Bilston League started to grow.

"Our bigger focus compared to the Stourbridge and Walsall leagues was about one man clubs, small teams," said 62-year-old former accountant Ball.

"Our focus was about being approachable and running it like a club rather than a league. We still try to do it that way.

"We had to do a business plan and the aim was that in five years we would have three divisions of 10 at each age group. And we near enough got there.

"We probably peaked 8-10 years in. We had around 250 teams then and it actually reached the point where we were saying it's got too big for us now."

Determination

One of the league's biggest selling points was the determination to appoint a referee for every single game. And it's an achievement that they are rightly proud off.

"We promised to put a ref on every game and we still do that, we have maintained that," said Hodson. "That has been one of our biggest successes.

Discipline has always been high on the agenda and the league has endured a fallouts along the way as a result.

"We have always been strong with discipline," added Ball.

"We have had a few fallouts because we have taken a stance and done things differently, but we have always done what we think was right."

Another success story are the numerous Charity Cup finals the league stages each season with the focus on giving all players the chance to lift some silverware.

"We have about 60-70 finals a year which sounds a stupid number," admits Hodson.

"But if you went to those finals you would see teams having the time of their life, teams who would never get to a final in another league."

Ball takes up the thread, adding: "We group teams of a similar standard together for the various cups, it makes success accessible to all teams."

Off the pitch, the league can be especially proud of its fundraising down the years.

"We select nominated charities every year and we have donated about £35,000 in the last 18 years," said Hodson.

"We have refs' charity matches where they play the managers and myself and a local referee, Noel Perry, did a series of bike rides to raise funds.

"The first one was down to Wembley and on another occasion we cycled to the Millennium Stadium.

"We have also been to Norwich, Ipswich and Southampton. The last one took in Wrexham, Liverpool, Everton, Bolton, Wigan, the two Manchester clubs, Stockport, Chester, Stoke and back home.

"It was knackering! I'm glad I won't be doing that again."

But now as Hodson puts the bike clips away, the duo are happy to step down and reflect on a job well done.

"Over the last couple of years we talked about it and it feels like we need someone new with new ideas and a new direction," said Ball.

"We are confident the league will continue to prosper and go from strength to strength."

Hodson agrees and is quick to quell rumours surrounding the league's future.

"We are getting older and less tolerant and attitudes have changed," said Hodson.

"I think there is less honesty in the game, even at this level. Maybe we are a bit 'dinosaurish' as well.

"We have got a great committee and there are people willing to take on our roles.

"There were rumours that the league was going to fold but that's simply not the case. That won't happen."

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Sport

Leagues apart – unsung heroes ready for the final whistle

See feature on page 39

It's a perfect ten as Clarke gets KO win

BOXING

HALESOWEN'S Lennox Clarke made a statement to his rivals by demolishing Richard Horton inside a round at Walsall Town Hall.

'Dangerous' destroyed the visitor from Essex and knocked him down three times in what was supposed to be a competitive contest.

Not much of the allotted eight rounds were required to get the job done as the heavy-hitter sent out a message to his rivals in emphatic style, writes Paul Webb.

He got off to a fast start, landing a sharp jab and followed up with a straight right that sent Horton down to the canvas.

Clarke showed composure as his opponent beat the count and boxed smartly waiting for an opportunity, which came in the shape of a beautifully timed left hook to the side of Horton's head.

Despite beating the count for a second time, the 34-year-old looked unsteady and, following a third knockdown, the fight was rightly waived off.

A breakout win of sorts for made it a perfect 10 for the 24-year-old, with four stoppages. The improvements he has made in the last 12 months were clear to see.

Co-promoter and former two weight world champion Ricky Hatton had four fighters on the bill, staged in conjunction with Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing.

All of the quartet had their hand raised, with late addition Sergey Rabchenko bringing a bit of glamour to the fight night.

The former European light middleweight champion made his ring return following a year out.

His opponent came out firing, but the gulf in class was obvious as Rabchenko sent Miguel Aguilar to the canvas four times in two rounds, before the Spaniard retired in the corner.

Penalty wipes out Yeltz's good work

Halesowen Town 1 Buxton 1

HALESOWEN looked set for their first home win since November until conceding a late penalty.

In the first of two meetings this week against mid-table Buxton, The Yeltz grabbed an 11th minute lead through an own goal when Buxton defender Ricky Ravenhill could only head George Forsyth's free-kick beyond his own 'keeper Myles Wright.

On-loan Kidderminster Harriers youngster Dan Sweeney made an impressive home debut and was unlucky not to add a second Halesowen goal, when his lob fell agonisingly wide.

Sweeney's spectacular 25-yard volley then cannoned off the Buxton bar midway through the second half.

Saves

But Bucks also had plenty of chances with goalkeeper Dan Platt making a string of fine saves to deny Bradley Barraclough and Ashley Worfold before the interval, then keeping out Alastair Taylor's fierce shot early in the second half.

Halesowen's work was undone with 11 minutes remaining after Bradley Lewis pushed Ash Burbeary and then Burbeary thumped home from the spot.

The hosts were unable to restore the lead although Wright made a fine reaction save to tip the ball away, after a long free-kick from Aaron Griffiths sailed straight through the Buxton penalty area with five minutes remaining.

Halesowen Town: Platt; Gueyes (Connolly 67), Griffiths, Denny (c), Morrison, Lewis, Charlton, Bragoli, Anderson, Sweeney (Turner 80), Forsyth (Melvin74). Subs Not Used: Parsons-Smith, Watson (GK).

Buxton: Wright; J. Bembo-Leta, Green, Ravenhill, Harris, Young (c), Taylor, (Doran 74), Wiles, Barraclough, Worsfold, Burbeary. Subs Not Used: Belezika, Grayson, F. Bembo-Leta, Ryan.

Referee: Robbie Dadley: Attendance: 401

Ten week target for DK runners on beginners' course

IF you have been inspired by tales of the exploits of Dudley Kingswinford's runners you will soon have an opportunity to join their ranks – as Dudley Kingswinford Running Club will be starting a beginners course in the next few weeks.

The aim is to get people up and running with a target of completing the club's Gavin Tipper 5k in June.

Registration will take place on Thursday, April 7, at 7pm at DK Rugby Club or you can register your interest online at www.dkrunningclub.co.uk website.

The course will cost £35 for the ten weeks and will involve training sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7pm, a free DK Running Club T-shirt and free entry to the Gavin Tipper 5k on the June 16.

That will be the culmination of the course and could be the start of an even greater running journey.

The only limitations are that those signing up must be aged over 16 and able to walk for at least 15 minutes at a brisk pace.

For further details contact John Glover on 07748 212443 or Ingrid Cain on 07894 054663.

SCOTT DRAGS STOUR BACK

Stourbridge 12 South Leicester 6

STOURBRIDGE beat South Leicester in a scrappy, error-strewn affair but had to rely on the kicking of outside-half Chris Scott to drag them back from a 0-6 half-time deficit.

A first half penalty and drop goal by visitors' outside-half Rickie Aley put them ahead, but after the break Stourbridge finally managed to hang on to possession long enough to put the visitors under pressure as persistent offending led to the sin-binning of winger Blane Howe with 15 minutes to go.

Scott slotted the penalty to put Stour ahead and drove the nail into the coffin with a further penalty. It was ugly but it was a win.

Stourbridge Lions 29 Stafford 5

THE Lions went past Stafford to sixth place in the league with a game in hand after a bonus point victory at Stourton Park. The hosts ran in four tries.

At first Lions were under pressure from Stafford attacks. They managed to withstand this and Scotty Langdon pounced for the first try, capped by a fine conversion by Harry Wainwright from wide out.

On half-time, a promising move led to George Tildesley scything through the fractured defence to score unopposed under the posts. Wainwright's conversion gave a healthy buffer.

The Lions had a rude awakening at the restart when, after a huge effort by the Stafford forwards, they drove over near the posts. The conversion was missed.

Gradually the Lions re-asserted themselves and began to drive Stafford backwards and this effort was rewarded by a fine second Tildesley.

A penalty converted by Wainwright all but left the game won and the home side were free to go for the fourth try and the bonus point. This they did when an inside pass by Sam Robinson put Dews through the gap to touch down, followed by Wainwright's third conversion.

Hooker Billy Harding draws in two South Leicester defenders in an ugly victory for Stourbridge

DKs enjoy the try of the season so far

Dudley Kingswinford 24 Crewe & Nantwich 26

AFTER eight minutes DK lit up Heathbrook with a high quality try which had the Keaton Stand on its feet.

The perfect inside support run from right-wing Nic Adams saw him run onto an inside pass and straight through a gap in the defence from probably the best DK team try this season. Duncan Tompkins made it 7-0 to DK. The good work was cancelled out as C&N's Toby Ward scored a try to make it 7-5.

C&N's Joe Gammage was yellow carded for a high tackle and the resulting penalty saw Tompkins extend the DK lead to 10-5. Luke Greenwood split the C&N defence and Tompkins again turned five into seven.

Lewis Hannibal was yellow carded and Ward kicked the penalty for C&N, who plundered two tries converting one.

C&N were awarded two long range penalties which Ward converted to make the score 17-26. Aaron Hudson broke in front of the posts and was driven over for a good team try, Tompkins on target again for 24-26 but DKs could not add more points in the dying minutes.

Glassboys back on track in the league

Stourbridge 2, Mickleover Sports 1

STOURBRIDGE shook off the dismay of their FA Trophy exit by getting their Evo-Stik Northern Premier League play-off prospects back on track with a hard-fought win over Mickleover.

Glassboys boss Gary Hackett was forced into a string of changes with former Halesowen Town skipper Joe Hull coming in at central-half for his debut while Drew Canavan was drafted onto the right flank for suspended Matt Dodd.

Mickleover, who arrived at Amblecote hovering just above the drop zone, were quicker out of the blocks and should have scored within four minutes when Jake Green was put clean through, but could only fire straight at 'keeper Matthew Gould. Then Gould came to the rescue again on 13 minutes with a fabulous flying save to push John McGrath's free-kick round the post.

Stourbridge took the lead on 16 minutes when full-back Kristian Green stole in at the near post and delivered a deft glancing header to send Sean Geddes' corner into the net. Mickleover levelled three minutes later when Nico Degirolamo bundled home in a crowded goalmouth. Stour were handed a huge slice of luck on 38 minutes when McGrath was judged to have handled the ball. Former Walsall marksman Karl Hawley smashed home the resulting penalty for his 23rd goal of the season.

The second half saw Stourbridge create several chances thwarted by Ross Atkins. Stourbridge should have sewn the game up three minutes from time when Hawley took the ball past the advancing Atkins but dithered long enough for defender Jack Broadhead to get back.

A goal two minutes from time ended Stour's FA Trophy run at Nantwich Town last Tuesday when veteran striker Steve Jones headed home to win 1-0.

Chess team look set for promotion

THE Stourbridge third team continued their remarkable season in Wolverhampton league division 3. Wins for Sam Bradley and Martin Berridge, with the rest of the team all drawing, secured victory at relegated Brewood. SCC look set for promotion and a straight fight for the title with Lichfield.

The second team's fixture in Wolverhampton league division 2 against Boldmere was postponed at Boldmere's request.

The first team played at Lichfield in a relegation 4-pointer in Birmingham division 1. Unfortunately Stourbridge had to field three reserves and lost.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.

Thursday, February 25, 2016

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